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U.S. to Keep Asian Troop Level Stable For Present

Analysts Say Pressures Of Budget Could Force Cuts Below 100,000

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE—In an effort to reassure Asian countries alarmed at the prospect of American military disengagement, the United States said in a report released Monday that it has no plans to make further troop cuts in Asia.

However, analysts said Monday that budget pressures meant that there was no guarantee that the U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region would stay at its current level for long.

U.S. troops in East Asia, most of them based in South Korea and Japan, were cut back to about 100,000 in 1994 from 135,000 in 1990.

The last East Asia strategic review in 1992 had foreshadowed plans to reduce U.S. forces in the region, Joseph S. Nye, assistant secretary of defense for international security, told Asian military experts meeting in Canberra last week.

But the new report, he added, "no longer talks about a reduction of forces at all."

Many Asian officials have warned Washington that further reductions in the size or operational effectiveness of U.S. forces in the area encourage such regional powers as China or Japan to become more assertive.

Responding to these concerns, the East Asia Strategy Report, prepared by the office of International Security Affairs to the Defense Department, said that cutbacks resulting from the end of the Cold War had finished and "no further changes in war fighting capability are currently planned."

The United States would "maintain a force structure requiring approximately 100,000 personnel in Asia," it said.

However, Derek da Cunha, a defense specialist at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore, said that the report did not explain "how declining military budgets will allow the U.S. to maintain current force levels in the Pacific in the medium term, let alone long term, without the redeployment of U.S. forces from other regions."

He added that if there was a further easing of tensions between North and South Korea, there was "bound to be an increasing push by Republicans in Congress to withdraw some forces from the Korean Peninsula."

The United States has about 37,000 troops in South Korea.

Reflecting concerns that U.S. policy focuses more on Northeast Asia than on Southeast Asia, Gareth Evans, Australia's foreign minister, suggested recently that Southeast Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand should form "a more cohesive grouping" to protect their strategic interests.

A step in this direction will take place in July when Vietnam joins the Association of South East Asian Nations. The current members of ASEAN are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei.

Analysts said that one reason for the merger between these former Cold War adversaries was to provide a more cohesive front against China should Beijing continue to use military force to assert its claims to control over virtually the whole of the South China Sea, including the disputed Spratly Islands.

Vietnam claims sovereignty over all of the Spratlys while the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei claim parts.

The U.S. Defense Department said in its report that Washington strongly opposed

See ASIA, Page 6

'Failure to control a rogue trader' brings down a leading British bank

28-Year-Old Goes Missing After Wreckage

By Kevin Murphy
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — So who is Nick Leeson, and where has he gone? The 28-year-old Englishman, last seen Friday in Singapore, has single-handedly prompted the kind of wreckage usually visited on financial markets by natural disasters and acts of war.

As general manager of futures at Barings Futures (Singapore) Pte., and one-time chief of the floor trading committee at the Singapore International Monetary Exchange, Mr. Leeson typified the fast-paced, big-money world of derivatives trading.

His world fell apart last week. By Monday Mr. Leeson apparently was on the run, leaving shocked colleagues and a trail of rumors. Judging from the newspapers piled on the doorstep of his luxury apartment in Singapore and laundry left flapping on a clothesline, Mr. Leeson and his wife left town in a hurry.

One report had him spotted in a bar in Bangkok, another in a Malaysian hospital and yet another rumor suggested he had turned himself in to the Singapore authorities.

The Singapore Commercial Affairs Department refused to comment on the status of the investigation or whether there was a warrant for Mr. Leeson's arrest. Singapore police said the matter was in the hands of that department.

Described in various reports by those who worked with him as "well-liked," "cheery," "cocky," "efficient and aggressive," Mr. Leeson built a reputation as a leading player in an up-and-coming market keen to establish itself as a major world trading center.

Now he has been accused by Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England, of "rogue" dealing involving \$27 billion in unauthorized trading positions that wiped out his firm, one of

See TRADER, Page 7



Nick Leeson, identified as the Barings trader who ran up huge losses.

When Bets Go Bad

- The Kobe earthquake shattered a billion-dollar gamble. Page 7.
- Asian stock markets fall as fears of sell-offs increase. Page 7.
- Singapore exchange wonders who will have to pay. Page 7.
- Anxiety sends the Deutsche mark to new highs on exchange markets. Page 11.



Nigel Hamilton, a partner of Ernst & Young, which is administering the bank, fielding questions on Monday.

A \$27 Billion Bet On Tokyo Stocks Shuts Down Barings

Harsh Reality: Bank's Failure Debacle Could Happen Again

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The Barings bank debacle has exposed a frightening reality: Today's highly leveraged and high-speed global markets lack any real defense against rogue traders whose actions menace the integrity of financial markets and institutions.

This is true regardless of the kind of deals being done, but it is especially true in the derivatives market — where sophisticated options and futures contracts allow

NEWS ANALYSIS

traders to bet on the future prices of commodities, currencies, or even entire stock market indexes.

Part of the problem, central bankers say, is that very few senior managers even understand derivatives well enough to police lower-level traders.

In the Barings case, according to the Bank of England, it was a maverick trader who engaged in billions of dollars of unauthorized derivatives bets, wiping out the capital of the bank and causing its collapse. But the same kind of disaster could easily happen again, and it may well, because there is no foolproof regulatory mechanism that can stop employees of a bank from making such secret deals.

The Barings collapse does, however, bring the debate over derivatives to a critical point. It comes after a wide range of derivative-related losses that in the past 14 months have beset Orange County, California; the British drugs company Glaxo; a New York subsidiary of Germany's Metallgesellschaft, and Procter & Gamble, the U.S. consumer goods company.

Peter Cooke, chairman of Price Waterhouse's world regulatory advisory practice and a former Bank of England official who spearheaded international efforts in the 1980s to tighten banking regulation, said Monday that in the Barings case the types of derivatives trades appeared to be of the regular, market-listed variety. When the deals involved are tailor-made over-the-counter derivatives products, which are a good deal more complex, the risk, and potential loss, can be even greater.

"Managements need to think hard about controls, about the choice of their own people in the trading area," Mr. Cooke said. "Just as bankers need to look in the eye of the man they want to lend money to, they also need to look in the eye of the trader who has such large discretionary trading power."

Meanwhile, as if to underscore the limited power of the world's bank supervisors, the crash of Barings occurred on the same day that the Swiss-based Bank for International Settlements, the central bankers' central bank, released a report in which it said it would seek more information from banks and securities firms involved in the derivatives business. The message of the report, however, boiled down to little more than a request for more data.

Central bankers have been trying to

See RISK, Page 7

By Erik Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — The governor of the Bank of England sought Monday to play down the crisis that claimed the life of Britain's oldest investment bank, blaming "a rogue trader" for the death of Barings PLC. But he also revealed the size of the problem — \$27 billion in unauthorized trading positions.

Eddie George, the central bank's governor, was quick to insist that the damage would be limited. He stressed that the collapse "has been taken extremely calmly, precisely because the markets realize it is a problem unique to Barings." He said further that it "does not indeed have serious wider implications for other institutions."

The collapse of Barings sent anxiety levels soaring but produced only muted sell-offs in most financial markets on Monday.

Barings was put into administration after the Bank of England failed Sunday night to find a rescuer to bail it out of losses totaling \$900 million — more than the bank was worth — racked up through speculation in Japanese shares and bonds.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke announced a review of Britain's banking system and urged a review of international derivatives practices.

"Every regulatory authority and every bank must now be considering what further steps it can take to protect itself against this sort of risk," Mr. Clarke said Monday in a speech to the House of Commons.

"This failure is, of course, a blow to the City of London," Mr. Clarke said to Parliament. "But it appears to be a specific incident unique to Barings centered on one rogue trader in Singapore."

Mr. Clarke said Barings's losses, which are open-ended, now totaled more than \$600 million (\$950 million).

Others were notably less sanguine. Noting a massive morning sell-off in the stocks of British merchant banks, many analysts agreed that by devoting ever greater slices of their assets to taking bets in world financial markets for their own accounts, banks had become excessively risky investments.

"Investment banks' earnings are first of all highly cyclical and secondly very dangerous," said Johnny de la Haye, an analyst at S.G. Strauss Turnbull in London. "In good times you can triple your money, but over the long haul they have performed very poorly."

Even large commercial banks have now waded deep into trading activities. The extreme volatility of the earnings they have found was underlined on Monday in the results for the trading activities of HSBC Holdings, the parent company of Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. It reported that trading in everything from stocks and bonds to currencies had earned it \$261 million last year, down 76 percent from the year before.

Worrying many observers was the fact that the ultimately fatal losses suffered by Barings came in trading especially risky derivative financial instruments. "Derivatives are an accident waiting to happen

See BARINGS, Page 7

AGENDA

Fugitive Spanish Official Arrested

MADRID (Reuters) — Luis Roldán, the former head of Spain's Civil Guard who has been sought on corruption charges, has been arrested in an undisclosed foreign country, the state news agency EFE said on Monday.

Mr. Roldán disappeared almost a year ago after being charged with em-

bezzlement of public funds, sending the Spanish government into one of its most serious political crises.

EFE, quoting Justice and Interior Ministry sources, said details of where and when Mr. Roldán was arrested were not immediately disclosed "for security reasons."

Page TWO Arafat's Fall From Grace

THE AMERICAS The Republican Outsider

ASIA Marking a Tokyo Air Raid

Opinion Page 8. Sports Pages 18, 19.
Books Page 9. Crossword Page 19.

International Classified Page 4.

Newsstand Prices

Bahrain	0.800 Dh	Malta	35 c.
Cyprus	£ 1.00	Nigeria	110.00 Naira
Denmark	14.00 Dkr.	Oman	1,000 Rials
Finland	11 F.M.	Qatar	6.00 Rials
France	0.85	Rep. Ireland	£ 1.00
Great Britain	£ 0.85	Saudi Arabia	9.00 R.
Greece	£ 0.85	South Africa	£ 1.00
Italy	£ 0.85	U.A.E.	8.50 Dirh.
Japan	¥ 150	U.S. Mkt. (Eur.)	£ 1.10
Kuwait	5.00 Fils	Zimbabwe	2m. \$20.00

Dow Jones

Down 23.17
3988.57

The Dollar

	Mon. close	previous close
New York	1.4558	1.461
DM	1.581	1.585
Pound	97.075	98.55
Yen	5.1535	5.1485

Trib Index

Down 1.63%
108.95

In Struggle With China Over Trade, U.S. Wins Skirmish

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The deal struck at the last minute Sunday between China and the United States may well turn out to be a major victory for both the Clinton administration and American business, proof that the right mix of bluster and economic incentives can convince China's leaders that their only choice is to operate by the

world's trade rules, rather than their own. But just beneath the surface, the argument over China's piracy of Whitney Houston's songs and Microsoft's MS-DOS

NEWS ANALYSIS

was just the first big skirmish in a struggle that will probably last for years.

It is a fight to make sure that the United States does not make the same mistakes

with China that it made for decades with Japan.

Whether Washington prevails this time may not be clear until 2010 or so, but as the U.S. trade representative, Mickey Kantor, said the other day, "You have to start somewhere."

Throughout most of Japan's postwar rise, Washington found every reason possible not to make trade — and America's own economic health — the No. 1 issue.

There was a Cold War on, and the Japanese islands were America's unsinkable battleship in the Pacific. By the time anyone realized the enormity of the American mistake, it was far too late.

In some respects, China today is about

See TRADE, Page 7

In Hong Kong, business is booming for pirated goods. Page 11.

Colombia's Ochoa Brothers: Rice, Beans and Regret

By Eugene Robinson
Washington Post Service

MEDELLIN, Colombia — The brothers Ochoa once lived on the run, pausing only to tend a multimillion-dollar drug-trafficking empire that anchored the infamous Medellín cocaine cartel.

These days, they pass the time making hand-tooled leather saddles, lifting weights beneath a poster of the model Cindy Crawford and hoping for early release from their custom-built prison.

The Ochoas — Juan David, 46, Jorge Luis, 45, and Fabio, 37 — are by far the most important drug traffickers behind bars in Colombia. Once hunted the world over, they were the first major figures to take advantage

of a government offer of favorable treatment to traffickers who turn themselves in.

Recently, in their first meeting with reporters since surrendering four years ago, the Ochoas spoke ruefully of their years in the drug trade.

They claimed that the hundreds of millions of dollars they are believed to have collected shipping cocaine to the United States are gone.

"We've spent more time spending money than earning it," said Jorge Luis. "The only thing we have left is problems." As he spoke, he wore a Cartier watch and had an expensive pen clipped to his shirt pocket.

The Ochoas, initially given prison terms averaging about eight years each, are confident they will do less

time than that. Recently, they filed requests for immediate release. The government has yet to respond.

In the session with reporters, the Ochoas denied doing business with Manuel Noriega, the Panamanian dictator now in a U.S. prison for his role in the Medellín cartel's operations.

They sought to distinguish themselves from the cartel's other figures, particularly Pablo Escobar, who waged a terrorist campaign against the government. And they claimed to have left the drug business behind.

Defense Minister Fernando Botero said the government had no indication that the Ochoas have continued to be involved in drug traffic from jail.

As the Clinton administration decides this week

See DRUGS, Page 6

Rage in Gaza/Arafat's Fall From Grace

PLO Chief's Ascendancy Brings Little But Chaos

By Barton Gellman
Washington Post Service

GAZA CITY — Aged and unsteady, propelled by rage, Fatima Abu Suayed seized her visitor's arm and thrust him into the scattered remains of her home.

Poor even by Gaza's shrunken standards, she had lived with 13 relatives in a two-room shack of cinder block and battered sheet metal. One afternoon this month, the police swept in and told the woman and her neighbors that they had to leave Palestinian state property. Then a bulldozer plowed down more than 20 homes, some of them, like Mrs. Suayed's, with all the contents inside.

Among her losses was the only adornment on the flattened walls — a portrait of Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"Our president!" she shouted, voice rich with contempt. "He comes here to kick us out! I ask God to punish those who destroyed this home! I ask God to punish them! I ask it every hour!"

Today this trash-pocked lot off Nasser Street stands as a monument to Mr. Arafat's fall from grace before the people he championed so long. There are others: the angry graffiti on walls whitewashed for his euphoric arrival in July, the lines of hopeless supplicants in the chaotic ministries of his Palestinian self-rule authority, the rusting bulk of a seaport pier that collapsed before it was completed, the spot outside the Palestine Mosque, where Mr. Arafat's police opened fire on unarmed demonstrators.

Once the living icon of Palestinian nationalism, Mr. Arafat has become the agent of its disappointment. Eight months after he took the helm of a fledgling Palestinian Authority in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, the breadth of disaffection — with him and the limited autonomy deal that brought him here — is striking.

Scores of interviews in the West Bank and Gaza, backed by polling data without precedent in Mr. Arafat's career, portray a steady loss of support in nearly every sector of public opinion: factory owners and unemployed laborers, secular Palestinians and Islamic activists, professors and refugees, even his own ministers and the Fatah political faction.

"Definitely there is a crisis," said Iyad Sarraj, a prominent Gaza psychiatrist. "You can see it on the face of Yasser Arafat. I went to see him a few days ago, and I came out very sad. This man is exhausted, depressed."

For all the unhappiness, there is no sign of a credible challenge to Arafat's preeminence, and it is still commonplace among Palestinians to say they have "no alternative." The Islamic movement, including Hamas and the much smaller Islamic Jihad, remains a powerful minority — beyond Mr. Arafat's effective control but incapable of unseating him.

THE PLO chairman has become, perhaps, an ordinary politician. The transformation dates at least to a poll published Nov. 23. That was the first time anyone using modern survey techniques ever asked Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza whether they would vote for him as leader if they had the chance.

"For a long time we were afraid of asking the question," said Khalil Shikaki of the Center for Palestinian Research and Studies in Nablus, founded in 1993 with seed money from the PLO. "He was the symbolic figure representing Palestinian aspirations, and there was no one else. We figured if he got 70 percent of the vote it would be a shame."

He got 44 percent. Stunned, Mr. Shikaki's boss, Said Kanaan, faxed the results to Mr. Arafat. Within an hour, Mr. Arafat faxed back a handwritten reply. "You had better pay attention to the details and accuracy of these polls," he wrote, with what Mr. Shikaki said he took to be a note of menace. "because inaccuracy could do a great deal of damage."

"Deep down I think he feels he has run the meticulous timetable prepared in recent weeks by Marine planners, some 1,800 Marines and 350 Italian soldiers were expected to be ashore in nine waves. As successive waves disembarked through the early morning hours, the landing force moved into prepared fortifications along a perimeter along a line of coastal dunes.

The arrival of the Marines, who are the centerpiece of the seven-nation extraction mission known as Operation United Shield, marked their second landing in Somalia in 26 months. In early December 1992, a U.S. force spearheaded Operation Restore Hope, a humanitarian mission intended to end a famine triggered by civil war. An estimated 300,000 people starved to death.

Six months later, the Marines pulled out and were succeeded by the United Nations Operation in Somalia, or UNOSOM, which immediately found itself in a guerrilla war against a clan leader, Mohammed Farrah Aidid, leader of the Somali National Alliance, which controls much of south Mogadishu. The futile attempt to capture General Aidid led to hundreds of UN and Somali deaths — including 30 U.S. troops killed in action and 175 wounded.

With rival Somali factions unable to make peace, the Security Council voted last year to pull the UN force out of Somalia by March 31. Despite the drama of a mid-night landing on the African coast, the Marines' amphibious choreography seemed anti-climactic, in part because advance parties have been coming ashore for the past several days.

Shortly after dawn, 2,500 Pakistani and Bangladeshi troops — the rear guard of a UN force



Mr. Arafat, in happier times, being carried into the Gaza Strip by cheering Palestinians in July 1994 after the start of self-rule.

legitimacy anymore," Mr. Shikaki said. On the street, that sentiment translates into predictions that the old survivor may yet fall to an assassin's bullet.

"There is a rule in physics: for every action, a reaction," said Jihad Hussein, 27, a mathematics student at Al Azhar University, who is angry at Mr. Arafat's wave of arrests of Islamic activists after a January suicide bombing killed 21 Israelis. "Maybe you remember that Sadat was killed by one of his soldiers. God bless him," he said, referring to the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in Egypt in 1981.

Over coffee late one night at a seafood restaurant, a member of Mr. Arafat's personal security team, who had traveled here with the PLO leader from Tunis, told of his leader's close calls. At a funeral in November, he said, Mr. Arafat's bodyguards had to flee without their shoes in their haste to extricate him from a mosque full of hostile mourners.

"The danger is greater now that he is living among his people," the officer said, "because there are many parties and many factions and some of them are very angry."

There are likewise many roots of Palestinian disenchantment, and some of them are beyond Mr. Arafat's reach. Unemployment in Gaza, measured by Norwegian social scientists at more than 50 percent before the self-rule accord with Israel, now nears 60 percent. Major General Danny Rothchild, who recently retired as the Israeli military coordinator for the occupied territories, estimates that the standard of living has dropped by one-quarter since Mr. Arafat arrived.

Much of the reason is that Israel, eager for separation in the wake of terrorist attacks, has curtailed work permits for Palestinians and often closed the Erez crossing point, Gaza's principal link with Israel. Israel also controls Gaza's border with Egypt and would not permit the opening of a seaport now even if the main pier had not collapsed. And just as local Palestinians cannot leave, refugees abroad cannot return because that issue has yet to be negotiated with Israel.

In Gaza's little strip of land — which generates no electricity, has no native source of fuel and holds no prospect of generating jobs in the near term — Palestinians are acutely aware of their dependence. And the self-rule negotiations with Israel show no prospect of breaking a months-long stalemate. All that is a reversal of the euphoria that greeted Mr. Arafat on his arrival in September.

Hamas, which drew support of between 15 and 20 percent in Mr. Shikaki's polls, exploits that embarrassment. In a recent cartoon, the movement's newspaper, Al Watan, depicted a tiny Mr. Arafat, bowing and clapping the hand of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel. "Master," Mr. Arafat groveled, "I swear to the Prophet, I know nothing. I am a poor man."

In a culture that glorified armed struggle and produced a generation of superstar killers — the heroes in Gaza today, with posters and trading cards, are "martyrs" who died in bombing or shooting attacks on Israelis — many share the sentiment, even if they do not support the militants' goal of a strict Islamic state.

ONE such person is Ismail Abu Qumsan. Now 24, he led an irregular band of fighters known as the Fatah Hawks, ostensibly loyal to Mr. Arafat, in northern Gaza several years ago during the intifada, an uprising against Israel.

"I miss resisting occupation," he said in the Jabalya refugee camp where the intifada began, peeling an orange and feeding it to his 2-year-old daughter. "I miss shooting Israelis, and I miss holding accountable anyone who made a mistake or did something against us."

As time goes on, however, there are other targets for criticism than Israel. Mr. Arafat does have a government now, he collects taxes after a fashion, and he has received hundreds of millions of dollars in international aid. Even supporters say little in favor of the results.

Among the few functioning institutions in Gaza and Jericho are five interlocking yet competing security services. Permitted 9,000 police officers by his accord with Israel, Mr. Arafat has hired 16,000 and paid their salaries, in part, with donations intended to finance other investments. Yet, they are barely trained.

What the police have not done, until now, is attempt to disarm the rival militias of Hamas, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine or others.

Salah Tamari, a former leader of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and now a middle-level official in Mr. Arafat's Education Ministry, said a fruitless peace with Israel had given Mr. Arafat no reason to confront Islamists. "To have a clash with Hamas, what for?" he

asked. "What achievements do we have to defend, other than some ink on paper?"

Others here, including the Hamas leader Enad Fajji, said Mr. Arafat lacked not the will but the means. "Arafat may wish to crack down on us, but he can't," Mr. Fajji said. "Any attempt to take away our weapons would mean civil war, and Hamas has a very high ability in street fights."

Major General Nasser Yusef, Mr. Arafat's senior police commander, has a reputation for believing otherwise. If his forces are unable to impose order, he said in an interview, "we should be replaced by others."

Why then has he not disarmed the opposition? "You can check up there with the big man," he replied. "We are awaiting the instructions of the political leadership."

Everyone, in fact, is awaiting the instructions of the political leadership, and in the Palestinian Authority that means Mr. Arafat. His own ministers say, not for attribution, that he has spent his adult life playing rivals among them and preventing the development of institutions capable of functioning without him.

"If he's in the country he has to see and sign every order — administrative, financial, political, economic, no matter how trivial it is," said Ziad Abu Amr, a Bir Zeit University professor. "If he's out of the country, everything goes on hold. Mr. Arafat is addicted to monopolizing power. He can't share."

Mr. Sarraj, the psychiatrist, said "the worst is still to come."

"There is no single sign that we are on the right track," he continued. "People say give him time. I can wait five years very patiently if I know we are on the right track. We are building chaos, we are building corruption, we are building a police state and we are not a single centimeter nearer to our goals."

Sometimes the chaos can be especially cruel. Mrs. Suayed and her shanty-home neighbors, who built on Israeli-declared "state land" because they had no other place to go, sent a delegation to Mr. Arafat when they first heard rumors that they would have to leave. He promised, according to Nabil Haider, a shanty dweller, that they could stay.

When the police turned up with their bulldozers, they said they knew nothing of such a promise. Since the homes were destroyed, on the other hand, the self-rule authority has done nothing with the land. Mrs. Suayed and her neighbors remain. Instead of living in their homes, they are living on them.

Superstars Glitter In Lyon Scandal

'Soap Opera' Trial Links Up Politics, Wealth and Influence

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

LYON — The trial has unfolded like a soap opera, with a parade of glamorous figures from France's social and political scene: a leading television anchor man, a popular mayor who harbored presidential ambitions, and a slick businessman who married the mayor's daughter and allegedly sought to cash in on the connection.

The French are captivated by a courtroom drama, now in its third week, dealing on the nexus of power, money and influence that many voters blame for an erosion of trust in their political system.

The trial on fraud charges of Michel Noir, the mayor of France's second-largest city, his estranged son-in-law Pierre Botton and 10 others has captured the public imagination just as Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and other presidential candidates, with spring elections approaching, are struggling to shake off the image of a sleaze-ridden governing class.

The Noir-Botton affair is the first major corruption case to reach court following a flurry of bribery investigations that prompted three Balladur ministers to resign. Despite new laws designed to restore faith in the system, opinion surveys indicate many voters still believe abuses of power and the trading of favors remain endemic among French politicians.

An alliance of politics and dirty money was long tolerated as shady but necessary. Politicians and their party organizations have always looked to business for infusions of cash, especially at campaign time.

Those companies' executives, in turn, expected to receive a hefty share of state or municipal contracts in return for their support.

Emulating their Italian peers, French judges previously viewed as tools of the ruling elite have asserted independence by delving deeper into the relationship of politicians and their financial patrons. But it took a family feud in the Noir-Botton case to lift the curtain.

Mr. Botton, 39, is charged with embezzling more than \$9 million from his companies during the 1980s and funneling much of it into the promotion of Mr. Noir's political career. A Gaullist rebel who tried to buck the party hierarchy, Mr. Noir, 50, was considered one of the most promising young politicians in France until he became compromised by his relationship with Mr. Botton.

Mr. Botton allegedly began pumping illegal funds into Mr. Noir's campaigns as early as 1983, showering the politician with gifts from designer suits and free cello lessons to chauf-

four-driven cars and tropical holidays.

Mr. Botton, accorded privileged entry into Mr. Noir's family, eventually married Mr. Noir's youngest daughter, Anne-Valerie. He also cultivated a coterie of friends, such as Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, France's top television newsmonger, who according to testimony accepted nearly \$200,000 worth of luxury holidays and gourmet meals.

Other Botton beneficiaries included the mayor of Cannes, who is alleged to have received \$150,000 in cash and gifts. The nephew of former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, also stands accused of pocketing illicit funds.

The fairy-tale relationship that was built on Mr. Botton's cash and Mr. Noir's charisma took a nasty turn soon after Mr. Noir won election as mayor of Lyon in 1988. According to Mr. Noir's testimony, the businessman appeared in his office one evening after the election and, rubbing his hands with glee, claimed to his father-in-law, "Now we're rich. Two investors in you for a long time, and it's time for me to take out my profits."

Mr. Noir said Mr. Botton demanded a 2 percent take-off of all municipal contracts approved by the mayor's office. "I thought the roof had fallen in," Mr. Noir recalled. "I asked him how in the world he could believe he had invested in me. Then I threw him out of my office."

Several days later, Mr. Noir said, he learned that Mr. Botton had decided to leave his daughter, who, the mayor added, was so distraught that she was seriously considering suicide. Mr. Noir said he reluctantly agreed to see his son-in-law again.

"It was nothing less than three hours of extravagant suffering," Mr. Noir said. "I succumbed to his blackmail over my daughter."

Mr. Noir's version in court was sharply contested by Mr. Botton. In a heated confrontation that left the audience gasping, Mr. Botton shouted, "Noir, look me in the eye. You know what you're saying is false, that you alone have abandoned your daughter. I have never demanded anything from my relationship with you."

In response, Mr. Noir pulled out a red diary that contained the private musings of his daughter. His lawyer showed it around the court and noted a passage where she pleads with Mr. Botton not to leave her, or else she and her child may end up homeless on the streets.

The readings from her diary sent Anne-Valerie into a fit of rage, and last Monday she filed an invasion-of-privacy suit against her father.

Troops Enter Somalia to Cover UN Pullout

By Rick Atkinson
Washington Post Service

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Waves of U.S. Marines in amphibious vehicles swept into this beleaguered capital early Tuesday, opening the final act of the failed two-year United Nations effort to save Somalia from itself.

Under a moonless sky shortly after midnight, nearly 800 Marines in the first wave tramped across two landing sites — a beach in south Mogadishu and the city's harbor — before taking up security positions overlooking the airport and port.

There were no reported injuries and Mogadishu appeared calm following intense clan fighting on Sunday and heavy weapons fire Monday afternoon in the so-called Bermuda district near the airport.

By 8 A.M. Tuesday, under the meticulous timetable prepared in recent weeks by Marine planners, some 1,800 Marines and 350 Italian soldiers were expected to be ashore in nine waves. As successive waves disembarked through the early morning hours, the landing force moved into prepared fortifications along a perimeter along a line of coastal dunes.

The arrival of the Marines, who are the centerpiece of the seven-nation extraction mission known as Operation United Shield, marked their second landing in Somalia in 26 months. In early December 1992, a U.S. force spearheaded Operation Restore Hope, a humanitarian mission intended to end a famine triggered by civil war. An estimated 300,000 people starved to death.

Six months later, the Marines pulled out and were succeeded by the United Nations Operation in Somalia, or UNOSOM, which immediately found itself in a guerrilla war against a clan leader, Mohammed Farrah Aidid, leader of the Somali National Alliance, which controls much of south Mogadishu. The futile attempt to capture General Aidid led to hundreds of UN and Somali deaths — including 30 U.S. troops killed in action and 175 wounded.

With rival Somali factions unable to make peace, the Security Council voted last year to pull the UN force out of Somalia by March 31. Despite the drama of a mid-night landing on the African coast, the Marines' amphibious choreography seemed anti-climactic, in part because advance parties have been coming ashore for the past several days.

Shortly after dawn, 2,500 Pakistani and Bangladeshi troops — the rear guard of a UN force

that once numbered nearly 30,000 — are scheduled to begin retreating through the U.S. lines. Bangladeshi soldiers are expected to immediately board a ferry and a passenger ship now waiting in the port. The Pakistanis, some of whom have been in Somalia for well over a year, on Wednesday will load 70 tanks and armored personnel carriers leased from the United States onto ships before embarking themselves.

U.S. planners hope the allied task force will be on the ground no more than 72 hours. Among uncertainties affecting the final pullout timetable are the extent to which Somali looters interfere with the military operation and the speed with which the last ships can be loaded.

One senior Pakistani officer estimated that looting of the airfield will begin "about 15 minutes" after his troops abandon their perimeter positions.

Mr. Phillips's client, Nancy Urbanaki, 30, a former high school secretary who says she lost her job because of repetitive stress injuries, had accused Apple and IBM of negligence. She had used both brands of computer keyboards.

The Associated Press

HASTINGS, Minnesota — Apple Computer has settled the first suit to go to trial against it alleging that computer users suffered injuries from the repetitive stress of using their keyboards. A codefendant, IBM, said it would not settle.

Apple Settles Suit Over Computer Keyboard Stress

The Associated Press

HASTINGS, Minnesota — Apple Computer has settled the first suit to go to trial against it alleging that computer users suffered injuries from the repetitive stress of using their keyboards. A codefendant, IBM, said it would not settle.

The plaintiff's attorney, Steven Phillips, would not give details in announcing the settlement Monday, but said: "These computer manufacturers have steadfastly maintained that they have no responsibility."

Mr. Phillips's client, Nancy Urbanaki, 30, a former high school secretary who says she lost her job because of repetitive stress injuries, had accused Apple and IBM of negligence. She had used both brands of computer keyboards.

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New Flooding Hits Paris and Parts of Southwest France

PARIS — Floods on Monday submerged farms and towns in southwestern France and closed riverside expressways in central Paris, which had only recently reopened after flooding last month.

In the southwest, part of the town of Cahors was under water and some farms were isolated as the Garonne and Lot rivers burst their banks. The road from Bordeaux to Agen was cut off. There were no reports of casualties.

In Paris, traffic was snarled as authorities closed down expressways as rising waters of the Seine covered them in places for the second time in weeks.

Employees at the Eiffel Tower prevented the monument from opening Monday morning in protest at the use of the Paris landmark as a backdrop for a presidential election rally by Jean-Marie Le Pen, candidate of the anti-immigrant National Front. The tower opened in the afternoon, according to a spokesman for the tower's management.

A four-hour strike by Italian air traffic controllers over salary demands brought airports across

the country to a standstill on Monday and forced the rescheduling of many domestic and international flights.

British Airways resumed flights to Beirut on Monday for the first time in 12 years. The twice-weekly service from London Heathrow Airport followed the resumption of service to Jordan last year. The airline plans to start flights to Syria in April.

Denver's new \$4.9 billion international airport opened for business Monday, 18 months behind schedule, with a cargo flight at 1 A.M. Delays were attributed to construction snags, including widely publicized problems with a high-tech automated baggage system. The first commercial passenger flights are set for Tuesday.

TRAVEL UPDATE

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Defense

Prosecution Wins

LOS ANGELES — Prosecutors won a landmark victory Monday in the case of a man accused of murdering a woman in 1982. The jury found the man guilty of first-degree murder.

The man, 34, was charged with the murder of a woman in 1982. The jury found the man guilty of first-degree murder.

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THE AMERICAS

POLITICAL NOTES



CRUISING FOR TROUBLE — Soldiers of a U.S. Army Special Forces unit patrolling the Carnival route in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to ensure that the celebrations were peaceful. More troops were called after rumors spread that there would be trouble during the festival.

The 'Dangerous' Republican Outsider for '96

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — After a recent national television interview, Lamar Alexander invited his advisers to pick him apart in a New Hampshire hotel room. But he was his own toughest critic, conceding that he needed to punch up his meandering presentation and remarking dryly, "After a while I get to the point."

The mild-mannered Mr. Alexander lacks the caustic tongue of the two other leading and far better-known contenders for the Republican presidential nomination, Senators Bob Dole and Phil Gramm.

But because of his dogged organizational efforts and the zeal with which he has positioned himself as the Washington outsider, Mr. Alexander, who on Tuesday plans to declare his candidacy in his home town of Maryville, Tennessee, has propelled himself to join the top tier along with the two senators.

"He's the most dangerous because no one's paying attention to him," said David Carney, a senior Dole adviser.

The 54-year-old former Tennessee governor describes himself as a conservative, preaching a grass-roots, anti-establishment politics that favors dismantling billions of dollars in federal programs and returning them to the states.

The morning he invited his aides to criticize him in Manchester, New Hampshire, Mr. Alexander took notes as Mike Murphy, his chief consultant,

instructed him on sharpening his message: "You are different from all these guys: Businessman. Governor. Nashville. And I have a vision of where I want to take the country, which is out of D.C. Back to families. Boom. That's the mission." Mr. Alexander repeated those points at two events that day.

Still, there are important questions about whether Mr. Alexander, a millionaire and New York-educated lawyer, can convincingly present himself as an outsider — or as a conservative. Though he does not highlight it in his campaign speech, Mr. Alexander knows his way around what he calls the "arrogant empire" of Washington.

After serving as president of the University of Tennessee, he was President George Bush's secretary of education for two years. He started out in Washington as a legislative assistant to his mentor, then-Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. of Tennessee, and worked in the congressional relations office for President Richard Nixon.

Mr. Alexander's conservative bona fides are also suspect, because he has the reputation and record of a middle-of-the-road Republican who is not driven by ideological passion.

For instance, he raised taxes during his two terms as governor from 1979 to 1987, a fact that he defends, saying it was "to pay teachers more for doing well and for building the best road system in the states." He says he is against abortion but does not have a well-articulated view of how the Republican

Party should grapple with the issue. And some conservatives do not take seriously his call to abolish the Education Department, his old agency.

"There's some reinvention," said Edwin C. Hargrove, a political science professor at Vanderbilt University. "He's not a natural populist, but he's turned himself into one. It's a little bit of an act. He's not an ideologue like Phil Gramm. He doesn't come with a heavy set of dogma. His values are to believe in limited government."

Mr. Alexander is hitching his candidacy to the success of popular Republican governors, like John Engler of Michigan and Stephen Merrill of New Hampshire. He is saying, essentially, trust the governors, not Washington, to change welfare, health care and job-training programs.

He asserted at a forum in New Hampshire last week: "The question of whether you have two-year limits on welfare is not for my friends here from Washington to decide. It's for Governor Merrill and the citizen legislature and the town councils of New Hampshire to decide."

If voters accept Mr. Alexander as a conservative and a populist, another question arises: Even at a time when returning power to the states is in vogue, do Republican primary voters want a president who talks more about process and states' rights than ideology?

"I don't think a process argument that, 'I'm going to send all these programs back to the states,' is going to carry him

through to get the nomination," said Robert M. Teeter, the Bush campaign chairman in 1992. "It's got a body of thought behind it, but it just doesn't strike me as a gut issue enough. The presidency is about leadership, about setting national economic policy, leading the Congress, foreign policy — the big issues."

Already, Mr. Alexander has

found himself retreating a bit. His catchy rallying cry about turning Congress into something of a part-time citizens' legislature — "cut their pay and send them home" — played well in the 1994 campaign. But now that the Republicans have swept Congress, he has largely shelved that approach for variations with less bite, like, "We know what to do."

Vote Hinges on 5 Senators

WASHINGTON — Senators get to be senators because they are good politicians, and so it is not unheard-of for one of them to withhold some pronouncement on an issue until the last moment, seeking to increase influence or hog the spotlight. But seldom has a circle of attention been so crowded as the one surrounding the vote scheduled in the Senate for Tuesday.

The vote is on the adoption of a balanced-budget amendment to the constitution, almost certainly the most important vote of the year. Sixty-seven votes, or two-thirds of the Senate, would send the current version of the amendment to the states for ratification votes and, advocates say, set the stage for a profound reshaping of federal spending priorities.

Supporters of the measure say they are one or two votes short of the number they need. And five senators are still wrestling with the matter.

The five, all Democrats, are John B. Breaux of Louisiana, Wendell H. Ford of Kentucky, Sam Nunn of Georgia and G. Kent Conrad and Byron L. Dorgan, both of North Dakota.

As now written, the amendment would be the tightest fiscal straitjacket Congress has ever donned. It would bar the government from running a deficit as soon as seven years hence.

Simple mathematics says that a "yes" vote Tuesday is an endorsement of at least \$1.2 trillion in cuts from the spending that is now anticipated through the year 2002 — or, failing that, an increase in taxes. (Michael Winet, NYT)

3 Backtracking on Quotas

WASHINGTON — Departing from their unqualified support of affirmative action, three prominent liberal Democrats — two of them leading "black legislators" — have endorsed a review of government programs that give preferences to women and members of minorities.

While supporting the review, the three Democrats — the speaker of the California Assembly, Willie Brown Jr., Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York and Representative Kweisi Mfume of Maryland, the former head of the Black Congressional Caucus — insisted that some special efforts were appropriate to help women and members of minorities overcome the effects of discrimination. (NYT)

Republican Tussle Out West

SACRAMENTO, California — Senator Phil Gramm of Texas has put a direct challenge to Governor Pete Wilson by declaring that he will

contest the 1996 California Republican presidential primary election, whether Mr. Wilson chooses to run or not.

Mr. Gramm delivered a full-blown campaign speech to about 1,500 delegates at the closing session of the three-day Republican State Convention here. This was seen as a political comp, as both the governor's office and the state party leadership had tried to keep presidential jockeying out of the organizational convention while Mr. Wilson ponders whether to enter the Republican presidential sweepstakes himself. (LAT)

State Vote Savages Welfare

RICHMOND, Virginia — In a vote along racial lines, the Virginia Legislature has enacted sharp welfare restrictions that would cut off benefits after two years, force recipients to work and deny aid for children who are born to mothers already on relief.

Sponsors of the bill said they hoped to discourage illegitimacy by requiring teenage mothers who receive welfare benefits to live with a parent or guardian.

"Welfare originally was designed to give people a life while they were in an emergency," Delegate David G. Brinkley, a Democratic co-sponsor of the bill, said. "Now, families stay on for generations. We want to make it more profitable to work than to receive welfare." (NYT)

Scofflaw Parents Exposed

WASHINGTON — President Clinton signed an executive order Monday intended to help states track down members of the military and other federal workers who do not pay child support or have avoided efforts to establish their paternity.

The directive will affect at least 105,000 federal employees, including 74,000 in the military, whose names have been provided to the government, the officials said. It will give the government more power to assist states in finding federal workers wanted in child-support or paternity cases and in garnishing the wages of those who are delinquent in making court-ordered payments. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Senator Ford, explaining his fence-sitting position on the balanced budget amendment vote: "The way we put it in western Kentucky is, 'When you're thinkin', you're cogitatin'." And I'm doing some real cogitating." (NYT)

Defense Witness to Be Taped

Prosecution Wins Argument Against Live Testimony

The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES — O. J. Simpson's lawyers on Monday lost a bid to have one of their most important witnesses — a maid who might have provided an alibi for Mr. Simpson — testify in front of the jury rather than on videotape.

Moments before Rosa López was scheduled to take the stand, prosecutors persuaded Judge Lance A. Ito to reverse a Friday night decision allowing her to testify out of order, in the midst of the prosecution case, before the jury.

Mrs. López's critical appearance then was delayed by a closed-door meeting between attorneys and the judge. During the meeting, the defense sought a Spanish translator who is more familiar with Mrs. López's Salvadoran dialect. Meantime, the defense

stepped up its effort to find damaging information on a Los Angeles Police Department detective, Mark Fuhrman. In court papers, the defense called for the city to turn over to Judge Ito the results of newly completed police department investigations of Mr. Fuhrman.

The investigations were reported by the defense to involve allegations that Mr. Fuhrman planted a glove at the Simpson estate, brought Nazi paraphernalia to work, and in the past knew Mr. Simpson's former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, well enough to comment on her figure. Mr. Simpson is accused of murdering her and her friend Ronald L. Goldman.

The court day began Monday with the prosecution urging Judge Ito to reverse his decision to let Mrs. López testify before the jury.

"The people's right to a fair trial is substantially endangered by this procedure," said Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark.

She said Judge Ito had promised her time on Friday night to argue against live testimony, but those arguments were delayed when he wanted proceed immediately and Ms. Clark had to leave to care for her children. On Monday morning, she said that information had been found over the weekend that would provide "fertile ground for effective cross-examination," and prosecutors needed time to develop it.

The lead defense attorney, Johnnie L. Cochran Jr., argued that the judge should not be "snookered" by Ms. Clark. Mr. Cochran contended Ms. Clark concocted the child-care excuse on Friday to have time to reconsider strategy. "This was only a ploy," he said.

Ms. Clark responded that as a single parent and prosecutor, child-care issues are "paramount" for her. "Obviously," she said, "Mr. Cochran cannot understand that."

In the end, Judge Ito sided with the prosecution, saying the rights of both sides would be protected with testimony videotaped now and shown to the jury later, during the defense phase of the trial. He sent the jury to a lounge and ordered the camera gear set up.

Mrs. López, a potential alibi witness who used to work next door to Mr. Simpson, reluctantly and tearfully agreed Friday to return to court Monday to testify rather than flee to her native El Salvador as she had said she intended to do.

Mrs. López told defense lawyers that Mr. Simpson's Bronco was parked outside his house at about the time prosecutors charge that he committed the murders.

Away From Politics

Seventy-one percent of Americans aged 25 and older are overweight, according to a national Harris Poll survey. The standard used came from life insurance tables for recommended weight and included a medium-framed 5-foot-7 man weighing 140 to 152 pounds and a woman, 133 to 147. (AP)

The U.S. space shuttle Endeavour was poised for launch early Thursday on a mission to examine the cosmic dust that forms our universe. At 15½ days, it is scheduled to be the longest shuttle flight yet. (Reuters)

A 37-year-old man tried to hold onto his runaway blimp but fell 200 feet to his death on a concrete runway as his wife watched from below. The unmanned, 90-foot-long dirigible floated over the San Francisco Bay area for more than two hours before being herded back to ground by a helicopter. (AP)

Gunfire broke out between rival groups during one of New Orleans's largest Carnival parades, leaving four people injured, one of them critically, the police said. (Reuters)

The last of thousands of families blown out of their homes in 1992 by the hurricane designated Andrew have moved out of the government-provided trailers into permanent housing in the Miami area. (AP)



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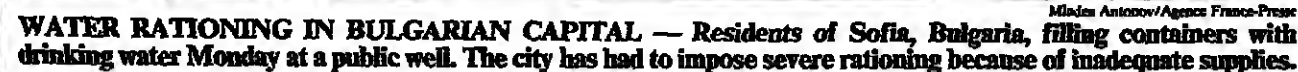
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NATO Leader Is Questioned in Belgian Bribery Scandal

vice president added that Mr. Claes was "doing an outstanding job of leading NATO."

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Boris N. Yeltsin addressing Russian concerns.

tion be authorized at the recommendation of Mr. Pasqua, who as interior minister is responsible for counterintelligence.

INTERNATIONAL

Russia Authorities Ask for an Arsenal

Even the Criminal Code Hinders Their War on Mafia, They Say

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

ST. PETERSBURG — Lieutenant Colonel Nikolai Anulov scowls as he takes in the chaos all around him.

Tall and angular, the officer is a leader of a police team targeted at organized crime. At this moment, he is standing in his office, a command post in the war on organized crime in Russia's second city, and he does not like what he sees.

Twenty-seven investigators are working in a space no larger than a standard American living room. The din is impressive. Five of them share each shabby wooden desk and the few antique telephones with frayed cords.

There is a single desktop computer with an eight-inch (20-centimeter) screen, which, if it happens not to be broken, can be read by suspects, witnesses or whoever else wanders in. There is no space for proper filing cabinets, so documents, mug shots and case records are heaped in clear plastic trash bags on the floor. Two detectives wedged into a corner are trying to coax sound from a tape recorder that seems better suited to a museum than an office. The whole place is soured by the faint stink of urine.

The most basic rules of investigation are violated here, Colonel Anulov said. "We can't even interview witnesses in private. When it's really confidential, we have to take them underneath the staircase outside to talk."

On several occasions in the last few years, the Russian government has declared war on the country's homegrown mafia, each time with dire pronouncements from President Boris N. Yeltsin and with alarmed officials warning of the consequences if crime is not stopped quickly. After a dizzying rise, the overall crime rate in Russia is leveling off, while the murder rate continues to climb precipitously — a sign, police say, that organized crime enjoys robust health. But here at the front lines of law enforcement, you would never know the Kremlin was much concerned.

Investigators in Colonel Anulov's office make salaries of around \$160 a month — less than city bus drivers. Not surprisingly, many of the brightest and most experienced have left for private security jobs that typically pay twice as much. Bribery is so common that some police on the take do not see anything wrong with it. Why not take payment for services rendered?

The democratization of any society is followed by an increase in the crime rate, said Major General Gennadiy Chebotarev, the No. 2 man in the organized crime division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. "But society should be able to regulate it."

What makes the sorry state of policing here especially worrying to Russian leaders is that it is the main barrier remaining between some semblance of public order and what the Russians call "crime without limits."

"The efficiency of the state authorities," Mr. Yeltsin told Parliament this month, "is to a great extent determined by their handling of crime. We have made little progress in this area." The president added that corruption in law enforcement agencies was growing. "The law enforcement agencies have virtually assumed a policy of noninterference," he charged.

Courts and judges, which once took their orders directly from Communist Party officials, have been left with little sense of jurisprudence or notion of right and wrong. Underfunded and inefficient, the courts are tempting targets for gangsters who are able to pay for "justice" on their own terms, according to police officials and media reports.

Prosecutors' offices have been strengthened in cities with particularly high rates

One Kingpin Sees 'Good' In Gangsters

Washington Post Service

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia — Sergei Bachurin calls himself a businessman. The police call him a hooligan. But to most people around here, he is the mafia.

Mr. Bachurin, who packs a pistol in his belt and a 12-gauge shotgun in the trunk of his Toyota, is the boss of this Pacific port city's sprawling Chinese market, police say.

Chinese merchants who converge here on weekends to hawk their wares of cheap shoes, video games, children's clothes and knockoffs of Ray-Ban sunglasses allegedly must pay homage, and cash, to Mr. Bachurin for the privilege of selling under his "protection," the police say.

A former laborer in a Siberian gold mine, Mr. Bachurin, 31, is a tall, lean man with a close-cropped red beard. These days he cuts a dashing figure in a double-breasted red blazer, chalk-striped gray pants, paisley tie and braided leather belt.

In addition to his own weapons, he surrounds himself with armed men. Twenty of them are personal bodyguards. Another 40, he said, are his enforcers.

"They're well trained," Mr. Bachurin said. "They can kill anyone. They can do this perfectly. I trained them myself."

Business in Russia is not for the fainthearted, he explains.

"We usually use grenades and pistols against people who come here and try to take over," he said. "But of course we try to solve things peacefully. We just conduct negotiations. The Russian mafia is a good mafia. We're strong but sensible. I'm just a simple businessman trying to make things easier for the traders."

The city police do not see it that way. They arrest Mr. Bachurin every so often but cannot seem to keep him behind bars.

"He's like a lot of characters you'll find around Vladivostok," Colonel Pyotr Sliadnev, the city police chief, said. "They can boast freely because of the weakness of our laws. They do whatever is not prohibited. The state has not determined yet what organized crime is."

The Vladivostok police department has added 1,500 officers in the last two years. But crime will continue skyrocketing until tougher laws are in place, Colonel Sliadnev said. "The militia can be expanded, but if society is not involved in setting limits on itself, it won't make any difference."

—LEE HOCKSTADER

of crime, but they are nonetheless overwhelmed. In the sprawling Pacific port city of Vladivostok, where crime overall has quadrupled since 1987 and the murder rate has doubled in each of the past five years, prosecutors manage without adequate funding and with no computers or cars. As they ride crowded trolleys to their appointments, criminals with bodyguards go charging past in brand-new Japanese four-wheel-drive vehicles with darkened glass. Organized crime clans control the businesses that dominate the city's booming imported-car market, police say. The rate of crimes solved in the city is falling fast.

from nearly one-third in 1992 to barely one-fifth in 1993.

Russia's crime problem has prompted much international discussion about the threat of Russian organized crime but few attempts to come to grips with it. In congressional testimony, public remarks and a whirlwind tour of Moscow last summer, the director of the FBI, Louis J. Freeh, pronounced Russian organized crime a top priority for U.S. law enforcement and for cooperation between Washington and Moscow.

But when the dust of publicity had settled, the bureau had sent just two new men to Moscow — well-regarded agents but with limited experience in Russia. They are confined to liaison work with Russian officials on several dozen cases of interest to the United States and are strictly forbidden by U.S. law from taking part in any investigative work, including interviewing witnesses or suspects.

The FBI, as well as the Secret Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Customs Service and Internal Revenue Service, also organized a series of seminars and training sessions for Russian investigators as part of a \$30 million grant under the Freedom Support Act.

But Russian police and prosecutors say they lack the basic legislative tools to put mob leaders behind bars. The criminal code, a slender paperback that folds easily into a back pocket, is largely unchanged from Soviet days. Among its shortcomings is the absence of clear laws, such as the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act in the United States, that would permit the prosecution of crime syndicate leaders, as distinguished from the small criminals who handle money and weapons.

Yet, attempts to toughen the laws to ease the prosecution of big-time racketeers have become entangled in nasty political debate between democrats on the one hand and nationalists and Communists on the other. Each side accuses the other of bad faith and of being in league with the dark forces of organized crime.

A crime bill that roughly resembles anti-mob laws on the books in the United States and West European countries has been in the works for more than a year. It would ease prosecutions and impose stiff prison terms for organized crime leaders, permit the state to confiscate assets and give the authorities new powers to protect cooperative witnesses.

Although Mr. Yeltsin and many lawmakers have stressed the importance of such legislation, it has been bogged down in parliamentary debate for months. Democratic reformers insist it would go further than comparable legislation in the West and would be a blow to civil liberties. They fear that the legislation would give already corrupt police the green light to ignore the niceties of due process.

"The bill violates a number of constitutional principles: presumption of innocence, the prohibition on forcing people to testify against themselves, the ban on setting up special courts," said Viktor Polshchikov, who is deputy chairman of Parliament's Committee for Legislation and Judicial Reform. "A law enforcement system should concentrate first and foremost on defending human rights."

Law enforcement officials and security-conscious lawmakers badly want tough new legislation. Without offering proof, they say that the real obstacle to the bill is organized crime's expanding influence in reformist political circles.

Said Valeri Kolmakov, a government opponent who is chairman of the subcommittee on organized crime and corruption in the State Duma, the lower house of Parliament: "I'm dealing with bills that are not very popular with some people. I can't prove it, but what I see is powerful resistance under the guise of concern for human rights, the constitution, the criminal and procedural code."



Mexico City residents being polled informally on major issues, including the Chiapas rebellion and the financial crisis.

Mexico Leader Stakes Job on Murder Case

By Tim Golden
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — With the arrest of a second suspected gunman in the assassination of the former presidential candidate, Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta, the embattled government of President Ernesto Zedillo has made a perilous commitment to solve the crime.

Should murder charges be upheld against the second suspect, Othon Cortez Vazquez, 28, it would suggest a conspiracy involving some of the more violent and corrupt elements of Mr. Zedillo's own party.

Mr. Cortez was jailed on Saturday, as was a former campaign security aide accused of lying to investigators.

Though investigators have failed to explain the failings of their predecessors on the case clearly, they have revived suspicions of a cover-up involving the federal police, prosecutors or the government of the former president, Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

From discrepancies the attorney general disclosed, it appeared that the earlier investigations were either highly inept or intentionally misleading. Regardless of how the inquiry unfolds,

Mr. Zedillo and his young attorney general, Antonio Lozano Garcia, have provided powerful evidence that Mr. Colosio was the victim of a plot. And as dangerous as those behind the crime might be to the government, it would be difficult for Mr. Zedillo to fail to pursue the case.

"You have to acknowledge that the investigation has advanced because of the support of the president," said Alejandro Encinas, an opposition leader.

But if he does not go further now, the credibility that he has won back will be lost and the image of the government, which is already weak, will deteriorate further.

For the moment, the clues point in three directions: to governing-party politicians and police agents in Tijuana, where Mr. Colosio was slain 11 months ago; to old-guard leaders of the ruling party; and to the federal government itself. The motive, however, remains unclear.

Just after midnight Saturday, Mr. Zedillo's office also acknowledged its own embarrassing connection to the murder suspect, contradicting earlier denials. A presidential press officer admitted that he had used Mr. Cortez in recent weeks to

keep him informed about articles in the Tijuana press.

Officials familiar with the investigation said the official, a former governing-party leader in Tijuana, was one of many politicians who employed the suspect in Baja California as a chauffeur or helper.

Among them, officials said, were at least two officials involved in the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party's 1989 gubernatorial campaign in the state. The contest was the first in six decades to be lost by the party, and some blamed Mr. Colosio, then the party's national leader, for forcing them to concede.

One official said Mr. Cortez also worked as a driver for a former governor of Baja California, Xicotencatl Leyva, whom Mr. Salinas forced from office. Federal officials later encouraged disclosures about corruption under Mr. Leyva, helping drive his supporters from power.

The arrests of Mr. Cortez and of Fernando de la Sota, the former chief of a large private security force working for the Colosio campaign, echo arrests made at the time of the assassination that pointed to an underworld of corrupt police agents and politicians. A factory worker, Mario Aburto Martinez, confessed to shooting Mr. Colosio and was sentenced last year to 45 years in prison.

U.S. Sure of Keeping Iraq Sanctions

Reuters

PRAGUE — The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine K. Albright, said Monday that Washington had enough support on the UN Security Council to block any move to lighten sanctions on Iraq.

In a reference to Russia and France, Mrs. Albright said she hoped council members who wanted a premature change to the sanctions regime would change their minds when they saw the strength of opposition. But she also said the United States would accept changes to UN resolutions allowing Iraq to

raise money for humanitarian aid by selling oil, although she indicated that distribution of this aid would still have to be supervised.

"There are members of the council who would like to see some change in the regime," she said during a visit to the Czech Republic, one of 10 rotating members of the council.

But Mrs. Albright, who is touring council member countries to drum up support on Iraq, said that any such move could be blocked under Security Council rules.

Mrs. Albright said Sunday in

Kuwait that Washington was prepared to use its veto to stop any relaxation of sanctions.

French Overture

France is going ahead with plans to open a diplomatic toe-hold in Iraq despite criticism from the United States and Britain, Reuters reported Monday from Paris.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Richard Dugue, said a diplomat, Jean-François Nodinat, would start duty in Baghdad on Tuesday as head of a newly established French interests section under the Romanian flag.

Bomb Kills 54 In Iraqi City Held by Kurds

Reuters

ANKARA — A car bomb tore through a crowded market district in the Kurdish-controlled Iraqi city of Zakho on Monday, killing at least 54 people and wounding up to 80, a U.S. military official based in Turkey said.

The blast occurred at the part of Zakho called the financial district at 8:18 A.M. local time, Lieutenant Christopher Leist said from Incirlik Air Base, home to the Western Air Force protecting Kurds in northern Iraq from a possible attack by Baghdad forces.

"At least 54 people are dead," he said. "But the death toll could rise. Up to 80 people are injured, 15 seriously."

Western relief workers reported from the region that the blast struck a crowded commercial street lined with trucks.

Many of the dead, they said, were believed to be Turkish truck drivers who regularly pass through the city.

Lieutenant Leist said there was no immediate indication as to who was responsible for the attack.

Iraqi Kurds have been locked in factional fighting for months between rival forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, led by Jalal Talabani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Massoud Barzani.

Zakho is under the control of Kurdistan Democratic forces, who benefit from the lucrative cross-border trade from Turkey.

DRUGS: One Family's View From Colombian Prison

Continued from Page 1

whether to certify for Congress the effectiveness of Colombia's anti-drug efforts, one U.S. concern has been the policy toward traffickers who surrender, and whether the Colombian justice system is capable of adequately punishing them.

The Ochoas' quarters in Itagüí prison, built in the hills above Medellín to house drug kingpins and other maximum-security inmates, cannot be described as luxurious. But they are hardly Spartan.

The Ochoas are three of only six inmates in a special wing of the prison. Their cells are small, but the brothers also have access to a sitting area with television and video tape recorder. There is a kitchen where the Ochoas heat the food their family is allowed to bring them every day. An exercise patio offers weightlifting machines, a treadmill, a stationary bicycle and other equipment.

In addition to serving up conversation to their guests, the Ochoas served lunch — ground beef, rice, beans, avocado and pork rinds. Around two long tables in the exercise area sat eight American journalists, the Ochoas, their attorney, and Gabriel Garcia Márquez, the novelist and Nobel laureate, who was traveling with the journalists' group.

The food was served by a former paramilitary marauder, who, in a fantastic scene worthy of one of Mr. Garcia Márquez's novels, asked if anyone wanted more beans.

Fabio, the youngest and most animated of the brothers, said that when the family began trafficking about 18 years ago, there was no consideration of the moral issues that might be involved. "It was just contraband," he said.

"In a nation of contraband," added Juan David.

They described an industry that gradually became more and more violent, culminating in the assassinations, kidnappings and bombings of the late 1980s and early 1990s. Colombian authorities have attributed most of the violence to Mr. Escobar, who was killed by authorities in a 1993 shootout. "Those people were bandits, not traffickers," Fabio said of Mr. Escobar and his ilk.

But U.S. and Colombian law enforcement officials and informers have linked the Ochoas, especially Jorge Luis, to the founding of the Medellín cartel and the violence the group perpetrated. Jorge Luis was a close friend of Mr. Escobar and has been implicated in assassinations.

The Ochoas were pioneers in the drug trade, establishing new routes for smuggling their merchandise into the United States and shipping far larger amounts of cocaine than those who had come before.

Still, the brothers said they were amazed at the new methods and routes being used by today's traffickers to move quantities of drugs the Ochoas said they never imagined.

The Ochoas claimed to have regrets, claimed to be rehabilitated, claimed to have paid their debt to society. But they also said they took responsibility for their actions.

ASIA: An End to U.S. Troop Cuts?

Continued from Page 1

The threat or use of military force to assert any nation's claim in a sea that is crossed by vital naval and merchant shipping lanes. This was seen as a clarification of American interests in the South China Sea, where China recently sent naval vessels to build permanent occupation structures on a reef claimed by the Philippines.

"Our strategic interest in maintaining the lines of communication linking Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and the Indian Ocean make it essential that we resist any maritime claims beyond those permitted by the Law of the Sea Convention," the Pentagon said.

The Defense Department warned that if China failed to make its military intentions clearer, other Asian nations might feel a need to respond to growing Chinese military power.

The Pentagon estimated that official Chinese defense spending, after adjustment for inflation, had increased by about 40 percent in the past five years. In the financial year ended in March 1994, the disclosed amount was \$2.4 billion yuan (currently \$6.2 billion).

Western experts said that actual defense spending is probably two or three times as high.

Terrorist's Bomb Kills Him

The Associated Press

ANKARA — A suspected terrorist was killed Monday when a bomb he was trying to place in a toilet in a building here exploded in his hand, police reported.

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Bundesanstalt für vereinigungsbedingte Sonderaufgaben formerly: Treuhandanstalt

Tender for sale
BCC Berliner Congress Center
in Berlin, capital of the FRG

This imposing property stands on the embankment of the River Spree in the central Berlin borough of Mitte. The outstanding location at a major road and rail junction, in conjunction with the size of the building complex are rarely found in today's Berlin market. The property is being offered for sale for the first time.

The land plot measures 7.209 m² and has a building intensity ratio of 3.72. The Congress Center occupies a corner position, with correspondingly long street-level exposure and an open view over the River Spree and the old Berlin city centre.

The property was built between 1985 and 1988 as a prestigious Central Office for the Treuhand Union Congress of the former GDR. Since the reunification of Germany it has been used as a Hotel and Congress Centre, with additional office space. The hotel has 110 rooms of good standard with altogether 187 beds. The hotel and congress business has flourished since 1990 and the company has gained a significant market position.

In the F&B section are a restaurant, a spacious banqueting hall and a bar, as well as a conservatory and café. The conference facilities consist of a fully equipped congress hall with 350 seats and eleven seminar rooms for between 8 and 120 persons.

The BVVG Bodenverwertungs- und -verwaltungs GmbH has been assigned with the technical support of this tender. For further information (object description with binding tender conditions) please contact the Central Tender Office (Zentrales Ausschreibungsbüro) of the BVVG.

Deadline for bids: March 31, 1995

BVVG - Zentrales Ausschreibungsbüro
Wallstr. 9 - 13 - D - 10179 BerlinTelefon +49-30 / 20351-532
Telefax +49-30 / 20351-472

Over 3.000 m² office space are available in the office section of the building. The rooms also look out over the river and city centre. Offers for the BCC Berliner Congress Center should exceed DM 65 Mio. The BVS is also offering a neighbouring property in the Brückenstraße with a direct connection to the BCC and 2.500 m² mixed apartment and office space for sale. This building can be used in a variety of ways and can also be acquired separately.

Closing date
March 31, 1995

The Barings Affair/When Bets Go Bad

How Kobe's Earthquake Wrecked a Trader's Billion-Dollar Gamble

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Early this year, it might have seemed like a smart idea to use equity derivatives to bet that the Japanese stock market would stay level. If it had, Nick Leeson, a brash 28-year-old trader in the Singapore office of Barings PLC, might have made a fortune.

Instead, disaster struck — in the form of a great earthquake that destroyed parts of western Japan and sent the Tokyo stock market tumbling. With it, crashing to pieces, went some billion-dollar dreams.

At this point, Mr. Leeson the gambler. He doubled his chips, but the market continued to move the wrong way.

The bets collapsed in recent days and with it the venerable Barings merchant bank, which had helped fund the Louisiana Purchase in the 19th century and advised Queen Elizabeth in the 20th.

The episode is a reminder of how easily financial markets can lose fortunes as well as make them.

Huge transactions help earn multimillion-dollar bonuses on Wall Street, but the scale of the business also means that in a case such as this one — an exceptional one — a single trader in one branch office can bring down an entire worldwide bank.

Many equity strategists and analysts expressed surprise that a single trader in Singapore could have built up such a huge position while undetected by his bosses at Barings.

Traders and equity strategists said they had been watching for weeks, some even months, as Barings seemed to be accumulating an unusual position in the various futures and options markets in Osaka, Singapore and Tokyo. And the complex web of transactions that Mr. Leeson allegedly had spun over the months is still unclear.

But so far, it appears that Mr. Leeson had made a highly leveraged bet, worth about \$7 billion, using futures and options tied to the Nikkei 225 stock index. Futures contracts allow investors to bet on the level at which a market index will be at specified dates. Often, they are used to hedge portfolios of stocks, but sometimes they can also be used to speculate on the direction of a market.

The Tokyo stock market had been dropping in the second half of last year, but then it rebounded in late December. Mr. Leeson seemed to be increasing his betting position that the Nikkei index on the Tokyo stock market would remain at a level of around 19,000, or within a band between 18,500 and 21,500, over the course of a few months, and perhaps longer.

It was an optimistic view of the markets, a bet that the Japanese economy was pulling out of a recession and that improved economic performance would ultimately boost the stock market as well.

This was a reasonable view, and one that had some evidence to support it. If it had not been for the earthquake Jan. 17, Mr. Leeson might owe be receiving a large bonus and considerable praise for his perspicacity.

One equity derivatives strategist said he began noticing last August that Barings was beginning to assume unusual positions in the SIMEX and Osaka markets. But many traders and analysts said that by the beginning of this year, it was clear that Barings was taking large positions on futures in both Osaka and the SIMEX.

"We saw that somebody was doing something,"

said Tom R.C. Hill, head of research at S. G. Warburg Securities (Japan) Inc. "We were beginning to watch it with interest over the last two months."

One equity strategist, who refused to be named, said that the dangerous positions assumed by Barings may have accumulated only in the last couple of weeks.

Mr. Leeson apparently used a technique called the "straddle," in which he sold an equal number of both puts and calls on the SIMEX. Traders estimated that he was short 40,000 straddles — 20,000 puts and 20,000 calls — with a strike price of 19,000 on the Nikkei index and an estimated value of \$3.6 billion to \$3.8 billion. So if the market stayed at 19,000, Mr. Leeson would have made a fortune.

But the market began dropping, creating huge losses for Mr. Leeson.

In a straddle, if the market moves far in either direction from the strike price, the losses go up. At that time, he could have sold his futures and cut his losses, but instead, Mr. Leeson apparently doubled up, buying an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 futures in Osaka and SIMEX and hoping to edge the market

up to where he wanted it to be. Most of his futures contracts expired in March.

As Mr. Leeson was buying, helping to prop up the price of the futures, other parties saw arbitrage opportunities and were willing to sell futures to him. The sellers saw that there were misalignments in the prices of the futures in Osaka and the underlying cash market in Tokyo. So they arbitrated the two markets, selling the futures in Osaka and buying the cheaper underlying shares in Tokyo for a profit. Analysts said that this activity helped support the Tokyo market to some degree.

But this could not last forever, particularly because Mr. Leeson was facing margin calls at the exchanges every day. Traders are forced to settle their outstanding positions on a daily basis with the exchanges.

"He ran out of money or got in over his head and couldn't meet his margin calls," said an analyst, who insisted on not being identified.

As of Friday, Barings Securities had 16,000 outstanding futures contracts, worth about \$2.8 billion, with the Osaka Securities Exchange, according to the exchange.

Asia Is Feeling Barings' Pain Bourses Fall as Fears of Big Sell-Offs Spread

By Steven Brill
International Herald Tribune

TOKYO — Fears that the collapse of the British merchant bank Barings could trigger a vicious cycle of selling pushed down stock markets across Asia on Monday and raised the question of who would be stuck covering losses that could soar beyond \$1 billion.

Some analysts warned that worse might be in store if the share values underlying Barings' futures contracts eroded further.

The Tokyo stock market's Nikkei 225 index plunged 3.80 percent to its lowest level in 15 months, deepening trading losses on the British bank's derivatives portfolio from \$630 million Friday to more than \$1 billion.

The Nikkei, which at one point dropped nearly 5 percent, recovered to close at 16,808.70.

Declines were less severe in other Asian bourses, which had fallen sharply this year in response to Mexico's financial crisis and where Barings is thought to have smaller market positions.

Singapore's Straits Times index fell 0.97 percent to 2,094. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slid 1.12 percent to 8,127. Taiwan's benchmark index lost 3.15 percent to 4,389. Kuala Lumpur's Composite index shed 1.72 percent to 954. And the composite index in the Philippines dropped 4.00 percent to 2,484.

The fear is that Barings may be forced to liquidate stocks and other securities to cover its losses on derivatives contracts — financial instruments whose value is derived from underlying stocks and bonds.

Traders estimated that the highly leveraged contracts — mostly futures and options tied to the Nikkei 225 stock index and booked in Singapore and on the Osaka Stock Exchange — had a market value of more than \$7 billion. Although the trades are thought to have been booked in Barings accounts, there was speculation in Tokyo that many trades were executed on behalf of Japanese clients.

With Barings insolvent, however, financial authorities across Asia moved either to freeze or take over the company's trading operations and assets. That left the merchant bank's position at the mercy of market forces, with losses set to multiply should the value of the underlying securities decline.

The Singapore International Monetary Exchange, or SIMEX, said Monday it was "satisfied" that the margins currently held by the exchange in relation to the open positions is adequate to cover anticipated price fluctuations.

SIMEX, however, did not specify the size of the positions, and analysts were skeptical.

"I don't know to what extent their words are backed by substance because with options, the damage fluctuates with the index itself," said Mikio Wakatsuki, chairman of the Japan Research Institute.

In Japan, where much of Barings' trading exposure is thought to rest, a 1,000-point drop in the Nikkei index costs Barings 16 billion yen (\$165 million) in losses, according to Nobuo Araki, director of the Osaka Stock Exchange's futures and options department.

The timing of the debacle could not be worse for Tokyo stocks, which are exceptionally vulnerable due to technical selling pressures — notably a record number of long arbitrage positions that expire March 10.

With the Nikkei having lost nearly 15 percent so far this year, most of these positions — equivalent to about 1.5 billion shares, or more than several days' worth of average turnover — are in the red. If, as expected, many investors are forced to sell the cash market to meet their obligations, the impact on the Nikkei could be severe.

Making matters worse, the Tokyo stock market has been depressed by institutional selling aimed at padding financial statements prior to the ending of the

Japanese financial year on March 31. Foreign investors, who supported the market last year, have also turned net sellers in recent months as prospects for a recovery of corporate earnings have been postponed from earlier expectations.

"The market's going to be nervous through March and nobody's left to buy," said Paul Migliorato, a senior salesman at Jardine Fleming Securities.

Compounding the market's dynamic is the decline in the Nikkei index to a level near where many banks and insurance companies see the unrealized gains on their equity portfolios disappear, or turn into losses. That raises the prospect of a vicious spiral of selling as financial institutions seek to book gains before the year's end, as well as try to maintain capital-adequacy requirements set by the Bank for International Settlements.

What's more, Japanese and foreign brokerages — which have suffered from sluggish turnover on the Tokyo stock market — could be forced to ante up millions of dollars to compensate for Barings' losses on Japanese exchanges. That's because the Japanese exchanges where the contracts were traded are ultimately responsible for covering losses.

As of Friday, according to Mr. Araki, Barings had sufficient funds to cover losses of about \$100 million on the Osaka Stock Exchange. But losses grew deeper Monday, and a communal compensation fund worth about \$61 million might not be sufficient, according to a branch manager of a British securities company in Tokyo.

If not, and assuming no buyer emerges for Barings, the Osaka Exchange's 125 members would be required to make up the difference.

SIMEX Members Could Get Stuck With Barings Bill

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Members of the Singapore International Monetary Exchange expressed alarm Monday about the possibility that they might be stuck with huge bills after the exchange said it would take over the futures positions of Barings Futures (Singapore) Pte.

Under SIMEX rules, the exchange can divide losses among member firms. A plunge in Japanese stocks Monday added to the speculative trading losses that caused the collapse of Barings, the oldest merchant bank in Britain and the parent of Barings Futures.

"It's scary because we don't know for sure how large Barings' losses on SIMEX will be," a dealer said.

Nick Leeson, the futures trader blamed by British bank regulators for Barings' losses, bought thousands of futures contracts linked to the Nikkei 225 index, wrongly gambling that Japanese share prices would rise.

Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, said weakness in the Tokyo stock market Monday added another \$280 million to Barings' losses, earlier estimated at more than \$800 million.

Japan's Nikkei average of 225 stocks plummeted 664.24 points Monday, or 3.8 percent, to end at 16,808.70, its lowest level since Dec. 8, 1993.

Bankers said Barings' contracts on the Nikkei had been placed on the SIMEX and in Osaka and may also have been done in private, over-the-counter deals with representatives of other banks.

One Singapore brokerage said in a report to clients that Barings' exposure included 28,000 SIMEX contracts and 16,000 Osaka contracts.

SIMEX said it was "satisfied" that the open-front margin payments it held

"It's scary because we don't know for sure how large Barings' losses on SIMEX will be."

A SIMEX dealer

on Barings' open futures positions were "adequate to cover anticipated price fluctuations." But that was before the Nikkei's fall Monday.

Traders and bankers in Singapore

said part of the fall in the Nikkei-225 index was the result of selling by SIMEX managers of Barings futures contracts.

Some SIMEX members said the exchange had liquidated a large portion of the open positions to minimize losses.

"I doubt they'll hold the positions for the long term" in the hope prices will improve, a former SIMEX employee said. "I think the intention is to liquidate, but in an orderly fashion."

Under an agreement known as the Common Bond, SIMEX has access to the assets of all full members if one of them defaults or fails to meet its obligations to the exchange. Such assets include margin deposits, security deposits and letters of credit.

If these assets are not enough, SIMEX can go to other sources such as

the Compensation Fund, a trust fund maintained by the exchange.

Each member gives 500,000 Singapore dollars (\$345,000) to the fund initially and then deposits 20 percent of after-tax profits each year.

A banker said that SIMEX seemed "pretty confident" it would not have to call on members to pay for even part of the Barings default.

"But there's some pretty big positions still hanging around out there so a lot remains to be seen," he said.

SIMEX members among its member firms the derivatives-trading arms of well-known local and foreign banks that deal in futures and options contracts linked to the value of shares, bonds or commodities.

As of July, SIMEX had 38 full members who were authorized to clear trades and 30 nonclearing members,



Currency traders at Midland Bank in London watching the pound fall against the Deutsche mark in morning trading.

Collapse Unnerves Regulators In Japan

By Steven Brill
International Herald Tribune

TOKYO — The collapse of Barings PLC could slow the pace of financial deregulation in Japan, where many government officials have resisted the introduction of financial derivatives of the sort that bankrupted the British merchant bank.

The Ministry of Finance has been moving slowly to liberalize Japanese financial markets, but an internal debate rages over the pace of reform.

Progressives argue that deregulation is necessary to raise the competitiveness of Japanese financial companies and avoid a hollowing out of the country's financial markets. But others, who may now feel vindicated, believed that Japan should move at a slower pace to protect less sophisticated companies.

"I'm afraid this will create an atmosphere in the ministry that more regulation is needed," said Mikio Wakatsuki, chairman of the Japan Research Institute.

The Barings problem is one of management rather than supervision itself, but it will inevitably create a backlash, added Mr. Wakatsuki, a former Bank of Japan executive director.

Japan introduced futures and options on the Nikkei 225 index in the late 1980s but complained that they exacerbated volatility of the cash market and contributed to the sharp decline in the Nikkei index beginning in 1990.

Authorities set higher collateral requirements for futures and options trading on the Osaka exchange than those set for similar indexes traded on Singapore's International Monetary Exchange (SIMEX).

"The Japanese authorities are quite happy to see SIMEX suffering because they can feel relatively snug about their more conservative views," said a branch manager of a British brokerage.

BARINGS: 'Rogue' Gets Blame

Continued from Page 1

and it is long overdue that the regulatory authorities do something about it," said David Poutney, a banking analyst at Collins Stewart in London.

Mr. George, however, said that he drew no such inspiration from the Barings fiasco. "There was a failure to control a rogue trader," he said flatly. He went on to charge that the trader's superiors as well as regulators to remain ignorant of such immense positions "there must have been collusion."

While Mr. George readily conceded that most of the losses had occurred via trading in Japanese stock index futures, he emphasized that the problem was not one of misunderstood risks but of risks that were never reported. The problem was not a failure of systems designed to measure risk.

Barings' management, said Mr. George, "just did not know the chap had taken on this vast position."

What is known is that most of the losses at Barings came from buying Nikkei futures, in essence bets on the future direction of the Nikkei index in Japan. Barings' strategy was to buy huge quantities of those Nikkei futures in Osaka and then promptly sell them in Singapore where they fetched only a tiny bit more. It was a classic arbitrage activity and one that normally required huge volumes of transactions to make any money at all.

TRADER: 28 and on the Run

Continued from Page 1

Britain's oldest and most respected investment houses. "Before this thing happened, we thought he was very brilliant, the most confident trader around town," a futures trader at a Japanese firm in Singapore told Reuters. "He seems to be able to move markets. Every day, we would monitor what he's doing."

Whatever Mr. Leeson was doing, it seems that supervisors who have described his trading positions as "unauthorized" did not know what rival traders knew about their firm: that Barings had bet heavily on a rally in Japanese stocks. The Tokyo market, which has been weakening since June, did not oblige.

Reports that Mr. Leeson had served as the back-office manager of Barings' futures operations until the end of 1993 indicate that he had been familiar with in-house accounting procedures. With an intimate knowledge of how the firm

'Before this thing happened, we thought he was very brilliant, the most confident trader around town.'

reconciled its trades, Mr. Leeson could easily control the amount of information flowing to the company's senior managers, Knight-Ridder Financial News reporter. As with many of his peers in a realm of the securities industry developing rapidly in size and overall complexity, Mr. Leeson earned a great deal of money and responsibility at a young age.

The new, computer-driven trading strategies and fast-changing mathematical models now an integral part of derivative instruments have been embraced more readily by young traders than by many older, more experienced executives who do not always understand how such instruments work in practice.

"It's a young person's world, it seems," said Sir William Purves, chairman of HSBC Holdings PLC, parent of Hongkong & Shanghai Bank. "But they need training, they need to be well supervised, and we need to have very good controls." Mr. Purves suggested that traders had an outlook that was too short-term. He said there was "far too much pressure" on trading decisions "in the form of bonus compensation."

One dealer familiar with Mr. Leeson said he had been very successful in his current position.

One trader said market rumors estimated Mr. Leeson's annual bonus as surpassing 2 million Singapore dollars (\$1.4 million) last year. Other sources put the figure as high as 6 million dollars, according to a Reuters report.

Bonuses for 1994 for Barings' several hundred employees in Asia were to have been announced Monday. Instead many fielded phone calls from headquarters or took the day off to dodge media enquiries.

"Nick has worked hard for what he's got, and he deserves it all," the Daily Mirror in Britain quoted Mr. Leeson's sister as saying. "He wasn't one of those public-school types who had it all handed to him on a plate."

"If you knew Nick like we do, you'd know he couldn't have done anything wrong," the paper quoted his sister, whom it did not name, as saying. "I think he's just very scared — he did not name, as saying. "I think he's just very scared — he couldn't cope with what is happening." British newspapers said Monday that Mr. Leeson had grown up in a dilapidated public housing project in the London suburb of Watford.

RISK: Lack of Defenses Means Such a Debacle Could Happen Again

Continued from Page 1

come up with a game plan to more closely monitor derivatives since 1992.

Two years ago, the BIS's committee of banking supervisors, under the leadership of Gerald Corrigan, then president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, came close to agreeing on new capital requirements for banks that would reflect not only traditional lending risks but also market risks related to the derivatives business.

That effort failed in part because of a turf battle between bank and securities industry regulators, and also because of differences between the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Britain's less rigorous, self-regulating Securities and Investments Board.

Last year, the world's leading central bankers shied away from direct regulatory controls and proposed instead that insti-

tutions involved in derivatives trading should provide fuller disclosure of their exposure to risks.

Just four weeks ago Andrew Crockett, the general manager of the BIS, warned that while more regulation by central banks was not necessarily the answer, new measures would be imposed "willy nilly" unless senior managers inside banks and securities firms took steps to improve their internal controls.

A partial response to the problem is expected to emerge in the next few weeks, when a package of proposed self-regulating measures is unveiled by the Derivatives Policy Group, which represents six major Wall Street firms and is chaired by Mr. Corrigan and by John Heilmann, former U.S. comptroller of the currency. Among the likely proposals will be ways to improve management controls, to enhance voluntary reporting of information to the SEC and

to develop a framework for judging the capital adequacy of firms engaged in derivatives trading.

The more official, central bank response on derivatives is expected this spring, when the BIS's committee of bank supervisors, under the leadership of the Bank of Italy's Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa, will make public its own proposals for new capital ratios that will take account of the derivatives business. But even stronger capital requirements cannot stop rogue traders, nor is it clear that they can guarantee protection from the monumental scale of losses that derivatives trading can produce.

While agreeing that new capital ratios can be helpful, Mr. Cooke said there was no single solution to the kind of problem posed by the Barings trader.

"The core of this whole thing is that I don't believe the regulators can devise a capital adequacy regime for the derivatives

TRADE: Apparent Victory May Be Only Skirmish

Continued from Page 1

where Japan was in the late 1960s, a powerhouse of growth, a huge exporter, and the leading candidate to overtake the United States someday as the world's largest economy.

To get there, Beijing's economic planners have surveyed the world and found their role model — Tokyo.

So, while the argument over the last few weeks was ostensibly about pirated copies of the movies "Jurassic Park" and "The Lion King," the real worry was about the future of McDonnell Douglas jet technology and Chrysler designs for minivans in a country that seemed determined to let 1,000 pirates bloom.

"Everyone realized that piracy is not just a problem, it is a fundamentally ingrained part of China's economic plan," said Gregg Mastel, a senior fellow at the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington and a specialist on trade with China. "And that

is why so many people are skeptical that this agreement, or any agreement, can stamp this out."

By sticking to its guns, the administration has won a series of remarkably specific commitments requiring Chinese authorities to inspect every compact disk factory and software house, and to close down the offenders or force them to license the technology they use.

It is a far more invasive procedure than China would ever allow an outside power to dictate in other realms — human rights, for example — and all the more remarkable because so many of the factories are enormous sources of revenue for the Chinese Army and the families of the leadership.

That is why many people inside and outside the administration suspect that new piracy factories may spring up as quickly as old ones are closed. But the reason the administration won this round, at least on paper, is that it holds the keys to something Beijing's

leaders want desperately: entrance into the World Trade Organization, the newly created United Nations of commerce.

Beijing has insisted that it be admitted on special terms, exempt from many of the organization's free-trade rules because of China's status as a huge but still developing nation. Mr. Kantor has said no way.

The only choice, he has said, is for China to join "under commercial, not political terms."

"We're determined not to get into the same position we got into with Japan," Mr. Kantor said in a telephone interview Sunday.

"We had a Cold War strategy with the Japanese and Europeans that worked, making them buy our exports freely to our markets even while their own were closed," Mr. Kantor said. "But those sanitary markets soon became a matter of entitlement. And it's been hard, to say the least, to break that."

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Northern Ireland Agenda

Prime Minister John Major and his Irish counterpart, John Bruton, took an important first step last week in opening negotiations for permanent resolution of the Ulster crisis. The leaders released a framework for talks that offers a set of opening suggestions they hope will lead to permanent reconciliation.

As usual, the Reverend Ian Paisley and his colleagues were not impressed. Blasting the agreement as a conspiracy to force Ulster Protestants into union with the Irish Republic, the 68-year-old bard-lineer seeks to block talks before they begin. But other, younger men who might have stood with him in years past were more responsive. One leader of a Protestant paramilitary group rejected the Paisley position and announced that he is tired after 25 years of killing, and ready to talk. That sentiment was echoed by a Protestant member of the Senate of Northern Ireland whose own daughter was killed by an IRA bomb. If that view is widespread, there is reason for hope.

The framework announced is simply the opening move in what may be a protracted series of negotiations. Devised in 18 months of consultations between the British and Irish governments, the document suggests steps that could be taken to heal divisions in the province. The British, for example, want to create a

new legislative assembly in Northern Ireland, with voting procedures that will protect the Catholic minority. The Irish government will support changes in its country's constitution that will revoke legal and political claims to the counties in the North. Both governments suggest the creation of a cross-border authority composed of elected legislators from Ulster and the Republic, who would work together on matters of common interest such as tourism, economic development and environmental regulation.

"These are our ideas," Mr. Major stressed, "but the future is up to" the people of Northern Ireland.

That last assurance is critical. No steps will be taken without the consent of the governed. There will be parliamentary debates ahead, counterproposals, compromise and eventually referendums. But there is no rush so long as the cease-fire holds, as it now has for many months. Peace has given a whole generation of combatants an idea of what life should be like. Young people who, until last September, over experienced a day free of fear that some indiscriminate killer or hidden bomb would destroy them don't want to see the old days return. Neither do most of their elders who have borne the full brunt of the violence.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Europe's Shaky South

Look along the southern edge of Europe and you see a pattern of frayed politics all the way from the Aegean to the Algarve. Europe's south has seldom been a tidy place, but its present lack of confident leadership makes it unsteady rather than it has been for years past.

In the east, Greece's 76-year-old Andreas Papandreu is a sick man, near the end of his political life; yet he has no obvious successor in his own Socialist movement, and the opposition conservatives look almost as rudderless. In the west, exhaustion and sleaze have undermined the men who once ran Spain and Portugal so successfully. Anibal Cavaco Silva pulls out of Portugal's prime ministership this year; Felipe González hangs on to Spain's. And in the middle flounders Italy, still trying to invent a new post-corruption politics.

This southern weakness will have its effect on the chief foreign policy argument now going on inside the European Union. Some say the Union should put its energy and cash mainly into an eastward expansion, to take in ex-Communist countries which manage the leap to free market democracy. Others say the Union's chief concern should be the strengthening of its Mediterranean flank against the perils in North Africa. Without a single leader of unchallenged authority between Athens and Lisbon, the voice of the look-to-the-south lobby will be fainter than it ought to be.

The Union's balance could be affected in other ways. Spain has the Union's worst unemployment; Italy has a huge

budget mess; Portugal and Greece are still its two poor boys. Southern Europe's many farmers will be hard hit by the changes in the Common Agricultural Policy that will become necessary if the Union expands to the east. Sorting out these problems will need strong governments in the south. Without such governments, the economic imbalance between Northern and Southern Europe could tilt even more against the south.

The most dangerous thing about Southern Europe's frailty, though, is what it will mean if North Africa blows up. That may not happen, but if it does come to worst the countries of Southern Europe will need tough, clear-thinking leadership. As things look now, they will have a hard time getting it.

To be sure, Northern Europe's politics are not exactly rock-solid. John Major holds on to power in Britain by his European and Ulster fingertips. Helmut Kohl has a tiny parliamentary majority in Germany, and may yet be forced into coalition with his Social Democratic adversaries. It remains to be seen how much firmness Edouard Balladur will show if he wins France's presidency in May.

But under the feet of these northern politicians, wobble though some of them do, there is steeper ground. The north of Europe, by and large, has mastered the practice of democracy; its economies are mostly in tolerable shape. The uncertainties of Southern Europe reach much deeper down. A single, seamless Europe is still a far-distant prospect.

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE.

Haiti Purges Its Army

Haiti's small and corrupt army was never much use against foreign invaders. Its real function has always been to protect a tiny elite by intimidating the poor. In recent years it has also got into the business of overthrowing governments, most recently in the September 1991 coup that forced President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to spend most of his elected term in exile in the United States. Understandably, Mr. Aristide, now back in power with help from the United States, would rather be rid of the army altogether. But that idea makes Washington nervous. It fears that abolishing the army could create a power vacuum. Washington wants to retain and retrain part of the old army, while creating a separate civilian police force.

Mr. Aristide is right about the army. The United States has an unhappy history of training supposedly professional military forces only to see them later depose democratic governments, abuse human rights and take bribes from drug dealers. Now he seems to be getting his

way. For months Washington pressed for the removal of two top army commanders, both of them Aristide loyalists with questionable human rights records. Last week he sent both into retirement. But he also retired 41 other top officers, effectively wiping out the entire army high command. If he goes on to abolish the army altogether, the United States should not object.

Abolishing the army, however, makes it even more crucial that the new civilian police, and the interim police force that Washington is now training to spare U.S. and United Nations troops day-to-day law enforcement duties, be seen as scrupulously nonpartisan and fair. Mr. Aristide recently put the fairness in doubt by infiltrating some 1,500 political loyalists into the force. Last week he removed them.

Taken together, Mr. Aristide's army purge and his retreat on the unscreened police improve the chances of Haitian democracy surviving after American and United Nations forces leave.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Drugs and Guns: A Deadly Mix

Murder rates among [American] young people were fairly stable until 1985, Alfred Blumstein of Carnegie Mellon University told the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Atlanta recently. Since then, he found, juvenile homicide rates have doubled even as rates for people over age 24 remained unchanged. Tellingly, he found a doubling of juvenile homicides with guns but no in-

crease in handgun homicides. He attributes this to growth in illicit markets for both crack cocaine and weapons since 1985.

The implications are clear. At the very least, enforcement of existing gun control laws must be strengthened, and given at least as high a priority as drug control. Both markets, in Mr. Blumstein's words, "peddle dangerous products, and we have been obsessed with one and have largely ignored the other." Amen.

—Los Angeles Times.

Russia Has No Business Holding Chechnya

By Walter C. Clemens Jr.

BOSTON—The West watches quietly as its old rival uses massive force to crush a national independence movement. Bill Clinton and other Western leaders say they support Russia's right to maintain its territorial integrity; they object only that excessive force harms civilians and that Russia failed to notify the West of major troop movements.

But Russia's only claim to rule Chechnya is the principle that might makes right. Right by conquest, however, has never been the rule of law in the West.

Even in Europe's Middle Ages, no territorial expansion was deemed legitimate until approved by the Pope. In the 19th century and again in the 1930s, Washington asserted that it would never recognize territorial or political changes achieved by force. Inspired

With a new world in the making, smaller peoples, living in a distinct area, may opt not to be part of a larger state with a different worldview.

by this "Stimson Doctrine," most Western governments refused to recognize Soviet annexation of the Baltics in 1940 or later.

Chechnya has defied Russian rule for centuries but was gradually subdued in the 19th century. In the 1920s, Soviet commissars picked up where czars left off. Chechnya, like most other peoples adjacent to Russia, were forced to join the U.S.S.R. in the 1920s.

Stalin's policies toward Chechnya, as toward other nationalities, were often genocidal. They aimed at exterminating resistance to Moscow's rule. Stalin allowed that local cultures could be "national in form" but insisted that they be "socialist in content." When a conquered people balked at Russification or at collectivization, it was decimated—often by starvation or by exile.

Stalin's police arrested and removed a large percentage of North Caucasus elites in 1937 and 1938; nearly all Chechnya were deported to the east in 1944. Moscow worried that some Chechnya might have welcomed Hitler. It worried even more lest Soviet Muslims align again with Turkey. (Later Soviet histories of the "Great Patriotic War," however, credited Grozny with determined resistance to Nazi forces and with delivering not just oil but shells, mines and other arms to the Red Army.)

Many Chechnya and other North Caucasus people perished in exile, but their survivors returned to the North Caucasus in 1956 and 1957, only to discover that some borders had been redrawn and some ancestral homelands were occupied by others. Some returnees were massacred by settlers who had seized their lands.

Chechnya have their own tongue but their land has been Russified. Although Russians made up less than a fourth of the population in the early 1990s, their capital and its main streets still bear Russian or Soviet names: Grozny (meaning "treacherous, terrible"), Mir ("peace"), Pobeda ("victory"), Lenin. There is or was also a Chekhov Park.

Russia has less claim to Chechnya than England had to its American colonies in 1775; less than Iraq to Kuwait; and less than Belgrade to Bosnia. In these three cases the imperial power could base its claim on

some factor other than conquest. England could assert common blood and values; Iraq could underwrite a Muslim-Ottoman heritage plus shared resources; Belgrade could point to kinsmen at risk from alien rule and recall the mutually beneficial cooperation that existed under Tito.

Defenders of Russia refer to its "constitution." But Russian constitutions have always been a farce. They have never been drawn up and debated by interested parties, as Americans did at Philadelphia. The basic laws adopted by the czarist, Soviet and Yeltsin regimes have been expedient expressions of "might makes right." Boris Yeltsin, like Nicholas II, can overrule the "Duma" on most matters (the word comes from "think"—even more passive than "talk," the root of "parliament.")

Chechnya is not like South Carolina in 1865. All American states had once accepted voluntarily the federal arrangements of the U.S. Constitution. But the Chechen All-National Congress, led by Dzhokhar Dudayev, called for a sovereign Chechen republic in November 1990—more than a year before the demise of the U.S.S.R.

Later, Chechnya spun any formal links with Russia. It did not follow the path of Tatarstan, which claimed sovereignty but affiliated with Russia. Many Chechnya do not like Mr. Dudayev but most value the cause of independence that he articulates.

Chechnya's split from Russia is like Pakistan's from India in 1948 or Eritrea's from Ethiopia. With a new world in the making, smaller peoples, living in a distinct area, may opt not to be part of a larger state with a different worldview.

Defenders of Russian domination say that the United Nations has not recognized Chechnya. But the United Nations is not the last word in morality, law or wisdom. It failed to recognize Eritrea's cause until the Ethiopian empire collapsed.

If Russian laws mean little anyway, even to Russia's governors, and if Chechnya refused to join the Russian Federation, how can outsiders say that Chechnya is Russia's internal affair? Chechnya has as much right as Pakistanis, Croats, Kuwaitis, Palauans or other peoples to self-determination. Chechnya do not sit in the middle of Russia but on its border. Their country is economically viable—rich in agriculture and oil, although its industrial base has now been leveled.

U.S. policies have had mixed results in

Somalia and Haiti, but they aimed at nation-building, not nation-destruction. When America's UN trusteeships wanted "commonwealth" autonomy or independence, they got it—with huge subsidies. Tiny Palau recently became the 185th UN member.

By contrast, Moscow has treated its former border republics as lost lands to be retaken. It has waged a trade war with the Baltic republics and deployed mercenaries in much of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The West should not go to war with Russia over Chechnya. But neither should it legitimize by word or deed Moscow's militaristic empire-building. Russian liberals, so brave in their defiance of Mr. Yeltsin's fascism, deserve to have the West on their side. So do the Chechnya.

The writer, who teaches at Boston University and is an associate at Harvard University's Russian Research Center, is author of "Baltic Independence and Russian Empire" and "Can Russia Change?" He contributed this column to the International Herald Tribune.

An Outrage in Chechnya

A VERY large percentage of the Russian public and almost all prominent Russian democrats have condemned the military action in Chechnya. Not to join in that condemnation is to fail the democratic forces in Russia.

To promote democracy in Russia, it is not enough merely to say that President Boris Yeltsin was democratically elected and therefore must be supported. To promote democracy means supporting democratic conduct and explicitly condemning undemocratic behavior. The support of democracy means support for the democratic forces in Russia and not for authoritarian leaders.

Democratic states should focus on the support and encouragement of democratic political parties and political leaders in Russia rather than on a commitment to personalities. A strong condemnation of the Russian action in Chechnya is needed. That condemnation should include the branding of the Russian defense minister, General Pavel Grachev, as a war criminal.

It behooves us to say directly to the Russian people that they have to learn that on the eve of the 21st century the definition of a great power is not the scope of imperial control but the quality of life within one's own society.

—Zbigniew Brzezinski, in an article distributed by New Perspectives Quarterly.



When Is Government Too Big, and Who Can Know?

By Herbert Stein

WASHINGTON—The greatness that was Washington is going the way of the glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome. It is being brought down by a populist revolution led by southern Ph.D.s. I have no intention of trying to revive Washington or even of delivering a eulogy. But as a longtime resident, sitting not far from the impending ruins of the Capitol, I may be forgiven some musings on the decline and fall of the Beltway Empire.

Enough with the familiar questions already! Despite the apocalyptic utterances of some of its less mature political leaders, Washington will be here for a while and probably little changed. But the constant portrayal of the government as a giant leech sucking the blood out of the citizenry does not create a good climate for dealing with America's real problems.

The federal government is accused of being too big. I can see that being too big is a grievous crime, but I am puzzled about how to measure the size of government and decide what is too big.

I suppose there is a kind of Laffer curve of government. If there is zero government, that is no good. If there is nothing but government, that is no good either. There must be a range within which an increase in the size of government yields increasing benefits, and a point beyond which further increase reduces benefits and increases misery.

While this, like the original Laffer curve, is a neat way of looking at the issue, it has even more insoluble problems than the original. First, we don't know where the critical point is. Second, we don't know how to measure the benefits. Third, we don't know how to measure the size of government. The main value of my curve is to indicate what we should know but don't.

The natural tendency of an economist is to say that the measure of benefits is GDP, or GDP per capita, and the measure of the size of government is government expenditures, either total or per capita or as a percentage of GDP.

But that assumes that all dollars are equal. It is not a dollar of Madonna is equal to a dollar of Kiri Te Kanawa. It also assumes that all dollars of government expenditures are equal—that a dollar spent on subsidies to tobacco farmers is equal to a dollar spent on education. People, excepting possibly econo-

mists, will agree that they are not equal, although people will differ about which is more valuable.

But let us stick with some of the crude facts. Federal outlays are now about 22 percent of GDP. They have been around this figure for 15 years. Is this too much? Who knows? In 1929 they were about 3 percent of GDP.

Are people suffering from the increase? Since 1929, real per capita GDP has tripled.

Of course, I am not suggesting that the increase in the relative

I would like the federal government to be smaller. Spending might be 20 percent less than now. But would America have solved any serious problem? I doubt it.

size of the federal government caused that large increase of output. A great many factors have been at work to cause the increase of output. Probably a complete explanation of the growth of output would include some variables from the side of government—some positive and some negative.

Government expenditures on education, infrastructure and research and development would be part of the story, as would marginal tax rates and budget deficits. Whether the net effect of government action in that period has been negative or positive I don't know, and I don't think anyone else does, either.

But the point is that no reasonable statement can be made about the effect of the total size of government without specifying what the composition of the government's activities is.

Government outlays are of two kinds. One is for the use of goods and services—the employment of labor and the purchase of supplies and equipment. The other is for the transfer of money to individuals, to state and local governments and to bondholders, who then use the money according to their own priorities and with their own incentives to efficiency.

When people complain about the wastefulness of government,

it is probably the first category they have in mind. But this is the smaller part of the total.

Federal use of goods and services now amounts to 6.5 percent of GDP. And most of that goes for defense, which the current complaint about the size of government regularly exempts. The remainder, on defense expenditures for goods and services, amounts to about 2 percent of GDP, and has been at that level for a long time. That is one-fifth as large as state and local expenditures for the purchase of goods and services.

Much complaint about the size of government refers to the excessive "bureaucracy." Perhaps that can be measured by the size of the federal payroll. The number of federal civilian employees has been a little less than 3 million for several years now. That is about 2.5 percent of total employment in the United States and about 18 percent of state and local government employment. Federal civilian employment is in the Department of Defense, which is now usually exempt from charges of elephantiasis.

There are other ways of measuring the size of the federal government—such as the number of pages of regulations in the Federal Register or the number of pages in the instructions for Form 1040. And there are other measures of the possible effects of government—on freedom and justice, for example. The point is that no matter how you measure it, no aggregate measure will permit an intelligent judgment about whether the government is too big, or too small or just right.

I doubt that an objective observer, if you can imagine such a thing, looking around the world would think that excessive size of government is one of America's big problems. Relative to GDP, total government expenditures—federal, state and local—are lower in America than almost anywhere else, and the federal expenditures are a smaller share of total government expenditures. Some of America's major deficiencies—outably in crime prevention and education—are in areas that are universally considered proper concerns of government.

Even if you think that the federal government ought to be smaller, there is no reason to think that making it smaller

would solve any serious problem in the country.

I would like the government to be smaller. Especially, I would like to get rid of all transfer programs that do not serve to benefit poor people, on a rigorous definition of "poor." Thus, I would eliminate Medicare, phase out Social Security, get rid of farm subsidies, drastically cut aid to small business, bousing, higher education and many other things.

When I had done that, federal expenditures might be 20 percent smaller than they are. The budget would come closer into harmony with what I learned in the public finance textbook 60 years ago.

But would America have solved any serious problem? Would there be less crime? Would the children be better educated? Would fewer children be brought up without loving, responsible care? Would there be less racial antagonism? Would the white American male suffer less anxiety?

I doubt it. And it is the failure to deal with these problems, rather than the size of the federal government, that gives cause for worry about the future of the American society.

The writer, a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, contributed this column to The Washington Post.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: China Dithers

PARIS—[The Herald says in an editorial:] China is incorrigible. The successive defeats inflicted on her by Japan have produced scarcely the traces of an impression on her inert mass. The Emperor is now consulting with the Council of the Empire as to whether he shall continue the war, or make terms with Japan; and the Council of the Empire in its turn has asked the opinion of the provincial authorities. If things go on this way, Li-Hung-Chang, when he receives the instructions necessary to enable him to set out for Tokyo, will meet the army of the Mikado marching on Peking.

1920: Speedy Count

ST. MORITZ—The weather continues to be splendid, thus favoring the winter sports contests. The Bobsleigh Derby at the Pal-

They Take America Backward

By Anthony Lewis

LOS ANGELES—At this early date, the new Republican leadership has pushed an extraordinary volume of legislation through the House of Representatives or its committees. In that mass of bills, can a theme, a common purpose, be identified?

States' rights might be one. Newt Gingrich and his colleagues have talked a good deal about the need to shift power and responsibility from the federal government to the states.

But that possibility is ruled out by the pending bill to limit lawsuits over personal injuries. Tort law has been a matter for the states throughout American history. The Republican bill, laying down rules for the whole country in major areas of tort law, would displace state legislatures and courts—the biggest nationalization of the law in a very long time.

Market economics is another possibility. "Let the market decide instead of the government" is a favorite conservative saying.

But again, the slogan conflicts with what House Republicans have done. In voting to end the outbirth program for premarital women, infants and children (WIC), folding it into a block grant to the states, they rejected a proposal to require competitive bids when a state buys infant formula. Such competition—reliance on the market—saved the federal government \$1 billion last year in the WIC program.

Evidently one must look out at what the Republican leaders say but at what they do. These are some of the measures that have passed the House or are on their way to the floor:

• Repeal of the National School Lunch Act, which has fed hundreds of millions of children free or at low cost for 50 years. It would be replaced by a block grant, with less funding, that would let the states provide meals if they wished.

• Ending the WIC program. Just as the school lunch act has raised nutritional standards, WIC has reduced infant mortality and the number of low birth-weight babies, who are more likely to have developmental problems.

• Legislation making it harder for investors to sue over claims of securities fraud. This bill is a companion to the one that would discourage personal injury suits by such steps as limiting damages.

Not yet ready for action but strongly supported by Speaker Gingrich is legislation aimed at the Food and Drug Administration. It would make the FDA ease up on its standards for new drugs and medical devices or, alternatively, move the testing and approval functions to a new, less rigorous agency.

Another planned attack is on payments for children with disabilities, under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. Some 900,000 poor children suffering from cerebral palsy, mental illness or other conditions now receive a maximum of \$458 a month.

Looking at that list of actions taken and planned, one can hardly miss the theme. The purpose of one measure after another is to enrich those who have money and power and reduce the modest help that the country gives to the poor and the weak.

Manufacturers and drug companies would gain. Sick children and poor mothers would lose. But anyone, rich or poor, may be hurt by taking an untested drug. Or by eating meat containing bacteria that cause food poisoning.

When the House last week considered a Republican bill to forbid new federal regulations for a year, an amendment was offered to let the Agriculture Department go ahead with stricter meat inspection rules drafted after some fatal food poisonings. Republicans rejected the amendment. But they agreed to loopholes for regulations that business wants.

There are faults in the American legal system and in federal regulations. But America will not be a better country if it has more defrauded investors, more injured people without legal recourse and more ill-nourished children.

The New York Times.



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OPINION/LETTERS

Senators' Turn to Reverse The Surrender to Red Ink

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — Back in 1972, when the U.S. federal budget reached \$245 billion, Congress took a look at that year's deficit — \$15 billion — and decided the budget was out of control.

Wilbur Mills, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, took emergency action. He rammed through a bill delegating to the president the power to cut the budget any way he wanted when it exceeded \$250 billion. President Richard Nixon was ready, but the

The record shows that budget-balancing statutes are nothing but hot air.

Senate was not; in blocking that radical action, which would have transferred more power than the line-item veto, senators argued that "there is no reason we cannot cut the budget deficit ourselves."

They failed. During the Carter administration, with national debt mounting, Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia proposed an even more draconian bill to balance the budget, and this one passed both houses and was signed into law. PL 95-455 stated: "Beginning with Fiscal Year 1981, the total budget outlays of the federal government shall not exceed its receipts."

Brave words. Because subsequent laws control, the mere passage of a deficit budget for 1981 nullified the Byrd law. Then came the Gramm-Rudman Act in the mid-'80s, supposedly imposing real fiscal discipline for our generation. All that remains of that pass at self-restraint is Phil Gramm running for president saying he told us so.

This is demonstrated that budget-balancing statutes are hot air, and experience shows that all pretensions about a "responsible" Congress someday balancing the budget are groundless.

Meanwhile, the national debt has soared from a piddling \$373 billion when Wilbur Mills sought drastic action to \$5 trillion today. The interest that Americans must pay on that debt now exceeds all that they spend on national defense.

Worse, from the perspective of the budget that the present generation's children will have to face, these are the good old days. Their tax dollars will be consumed by paying interest on the deficits run today, leaving

nothing for their own good life.

That is why the Gingrich House has passed the balanced budget amendment to the constitution as the centerpiece of its contract, and why four out of five Americans support its passage when the vote comes up in the Dole Senate this Tuesday. A third of the senators could block it; minority rule is still possible.

With all Republicans except Mark Hatfield united behind the balancing amendment, and with most Democrats opposing such deficit demobilization, key votes among the undecided are Senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad. Never has so much of the nation's future rested on the decision of two guys from North Dakota.

Another potential savior of liberal spenders is Sam Nunn of Georgia, who wants ironclad guarantees that the amendment will not be enforceable in court, lest some federal judge wind up as de facto budget director.

But an unenforceable law would mock the constitution. Let the legislative history show that in the event of imbalance, Congress and the states intend any judicial injunction to apply to all spending and taxing as a lump, with no discretion left to judges to choose which spending to cut. If enjoined by the court from running a red-ink government at all, Congress would be forced to do its duty and balance the budget.

A few points for the gentlemen from North Dakota:

1. By voting "yes," they would empower the people back home (including North Dakotans and Georgians) to join in deciding this great question: 75 percent of the states must vote to ratify, or the amendment fails.

2. If the pendulum of public opinion swings, a future generation can choose new taxes over spending cuts as a means of balancing the nation's accounts. There is room for a shift back to activist government centralized in Washington, if that is what our children want.

3. Bill Clinton has just surrendered to red ink. His own pusillanimous budget, which makes not even the easy choices, helplessly projects another trillion in debt — and that assumes that his rosy economic projections come true.

That last item is the crusher. Publicly bowing to personal and political defeat by the deficit, President Clinton has turned the budget helm over to Congress. That branch has demonstrated how it needs to lash itself to the mast of the constitution.

The New York Times.

Casey at the Bank

Things were looking rosy for big Mudville, Inc. that year. They had bought another station and were selling loads of beer. So when the season ended with a strike, "Hey, that's a shame! But this is business," said the owners, "not some sweet and childish game."

When the owners dug their heels in, and the players did the same, A strange and awful hush fell over students of the game. With all the talk of contracts, of bottom line and loss, It could be more than revenue this baseball strike has cost.

Kids are playing soccer, when you tell 'em, "Let's play ball!" They strap on gaudy sneakers and go dribbling in some hall. Willy's now a killer whale, and Mickey's just a mouse: DiMaggio, some guy named Joe, who sold coffee house to house.

Oh, somewhere on some future day a dad might take his son To the ballpark for a hot dog (that's eight bucks with the bun). The kid will watch a hero sign a baseball for a fee, And ask his aging father, "Mighty Casey? Who is he?"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Britain and the EU

Regarding "Britain Is Shutting Itself Out of the EU" (Thinking Ahead, Feb. 10) by Reginald Dale:

If Britain is behind in "the race for European leadership" it is perhaps that the idea of a race is contrary to everything Europe is meant to be about. If people are reticent it is precisely because they sense that what is now on offer is a rebirth of failed policies and the kind of outdated ideology that has often meant disaster for Europe. It is not "chauvinism and negativity" to put this into question.

As for grasping "the realities of their declining power," I suspect that British people are more immediately concerned with good demo-

cratic government and fair law than with abstract concepts of relative national power.

British faith in the nation-state as the defender of rights and freedom is justified by hundreds of years of stability and the absence of internal strife. It is therefore no surprise that Britain builds "roadblocks" to some of the radical ideas emanating from its European neighbors.

Many Europeans share British concerns about rushing into a federal Europe. People feel they have a right to debate the merits of policies such as monetary union; they take exception to the threats of Alain Juppé and Geoffrey Howe. They do not like having policy thrust upon them as a fait accompli.

A Very Heavy Price

Regarding "It Was the Germans Who Did It" (Letters, Feb. 15) from Rudy Rosenberg:

I do not think it fair to assign responsibility for the Holocaust to the entire German population.

There were men and women who actively opposed the Nazis. But in a country under the total control of the secret police, who ruthlessly eradicated any sign of opposition activity, the resistance had no chance of success. During the Nazi persecution ordered by Hitler,

many Germans helped Jewish friends, placing in jeopardy themselves and their families. As for "getting off too easy," Germans, and for that matter many innocent Germans, paid a very heavy price for the iniquities committed by the Nazis.

WOLFGANG PRINZ ZU HOHENLOHE-OEHRINGEN, Florence.

Wrestling With the Budget

Regarding "Laser's Genes and Grandma's Walker" (Opinion, Feb. 20) by Katherine Dowling:

Dr. Dowling suggests that America faces a choice between welfare and entitlement spending and the funding of scientific research. Perhaps the Moche civilization she mentions did because it saw only two choices when hundreds were available. For example, why not scientific research rather than agricultural subsidies or home mortgage subsidies for the wealthy?

The current spirit in the U.S. Congress, however, suggests that Americans will soon have neither advanced research nor grandma's walker. Perhaps more radical options should be considered. How about raising taxes to ensure the continuation of activities that make valuable contributions to the future of the country?

SUSAN G. CLARK, Paris.

BOOKS

SPELL OF THE TIGER: The Man-Eaters of Sundarbans

By Sy Montgomery. Illustrated. 230 pages. \$22.95. Houghton Mifflin.

Reviewed by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt

THE tiger's "future looks so bleak that some people have already given up on it," writes Sy Montgomery in her fascinating new book, "Spell of the Tiger: The Man-Eaters of Sundarbans." She continues, "Today tigers are slaughtered for parts previous poachers left behind: the whiskers, sinews, penis, blood and, especially, bone, all of which are sold to supply a seemingly bottomless market for so-called elixirs."

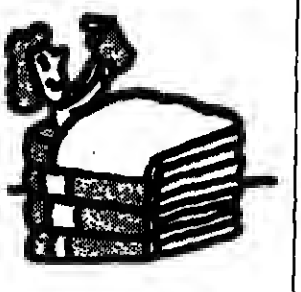
Yet the relation of people to tigers is different in one corner of the earth called Sundarbans, the great mangrove swamp that stretches between India and Bangladesh along the Bay of Bengal.

Here, Montgomery writes, "nature does not obey the rules: fish climb trees; the animals drink salt water; the roots of trees grow up toward the sky

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Dominique Cellura, editor in chief of *Voici*, is reading "Le Fin Mot de l'Histoire" ("Get a Load of This"), short stories by James Hadley Chase.

"I read about 10 books at the same time, but my favorite is always the one I leave on my bedside table. At the moment, it's 'Le Fin Mot de l'Histoire,' which succeeds in being both old-fashioned and contemporary." (John Brunton, *IHT*)



instead of down to the earth; the tide may run in opposite directions simultaneously in the same creek."

"And here," she concludes, "the tigers do not obey the same rules by which tigers elsewhere govern their lives. They hunt people. They take their prey even in broad daylight. They will even swim out into the Bay of Bengal, where the waves may be more than two feet high. They often swim from India to Bangladesh. The tigers here are bound by neither day nor night, land nor water; these tigers, some say, are creatures of neither heaven nor earth."

To understand something of

these animals, Montgomery, a nature writer ("Walking With the Great Apes: Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, Biruté Galdikas"), made three trips to India and Bangladesh, lived among the natives of Sundarbans and tracked tigers in the forest.

Although conditions there are far from ideal for study, given the remarkable elusiveness of the beasts, she spoke with people who had witnessed attacks in which the animals seemed to materialize from nowhere, sometimes even bursting out of the water and snatching their victims from boats.

She experienced being stalked and came to know that

"beneath our professions and our words, beneath our culture and our clothing — beneath our very skin — we are still, we are always, as we have been since the creation of our kind, prey in the mind and the jaws of the tiger."

Why the tigers of Sundarbans are so different in their view of people is the subject of various speculations: They are forced to drink salt water and are therefore more irritable; they acquired a taste for humans from eating incompletely cremated corpses floating down from the holy Ganges; the sucking ooze of the swamp makes it difficult for the tigers to catch their usual prey; the dampness of the region has discouraged normal territoriality and made the tigers super-aggressive.

Whatever the explanation, the man-eaters are formidable hunters who evince a "high degree of intelligence and disaboli- cal understanding of human behavior," according to a study of killing patterns done in 1979.

The tigers even seem to respect their prey, refusing to attack when their victims are facing them and preferring not to look humans in the eye. For a time the tigers were deterred when people who went into the forest wore masks on the backs of their heads. Yet the tigers soon saw through the deception and began to attack again.

If the tigers respect their victims, the feeling is mutual. The man-eaters are worshiped in the form of Dakshin Ray, the tiger god, often depicted as a warrior riding a tiger. Hindus and Muslims alike pray to Dakshin Ray, to whom shrines are dedicated in every village and in many parts of the forest.

It seems strange at first that among the photographs in the book there are no tigers depicted and that in all her travels she caught only a fleeting glimpse of one, swimming away from a boat she was in: "It took the animal less than two seconds to climb from the water and disappear."

Yet like the cyclonic winds that periodically devastate Sundarbans, the tigers leave the evidence of their presence everywhere. Most strikingly, the survival of the forest has depended on them, for the tigers occupy the ecological niche of weeding out trespassers there.

Christopher Lehmann-Haupt is on the staff of The New York Times.

For investment information Read THE MONEY REPORT every Saturday in the IHT

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

YASSER SEIRAWAN beat Vladimir Dimitrov in Round 13 in the World Chess Olympiad.

The rarely played 5 B43 against the King's Indian Defense is a flexible development. In a game between Vlastimil Hort and Zsuzsa Polgar last year, 5...O-O 6 Nge2 Ne6 7 O-O Nd7 8 Bc2 e9 9 d5 Nd4 10 Nd4 e11 Nb5 Ne5 12 Nd4 Ne4 13 Rb1 gave even chances.

The alternative sequence with 6...c5 7 d5 e6 of the present game produces a Benoni-like formation. Yet there is one difference: after 8 O-O Ng4 9 Bc2 Ne5 10 b3 ed, White avoids a true Benoni by recapturing with 11 ed instead of unbalancing the pawn formation with 11 cd. Thus, Seirawan kept a small advantage in space in a quiet position.

Or rather it would have been quiet, except that Dimitrov offered a speculative pawn sacrifice with 11...b5.

Once Seirawan had time for 15 Rb1! there were no white pawn weaknesses and soon the black d6 pawn would become a real weakness. After 17 Nec3, the threat of 18 Ne4 arose.

Dimitrov's 17...f6 foreshadowed the effective 18...Nf7 followed by 19...f5. But Seirawan never gave him the chance: 18 f4! Ng4 19 f3! g7 20 Bf5 21 Rf5 Nec3 22 Bc3 Rb3 saddled

DIMITROV/BLACK



Position after 30...Kg7

Dimitrov with split pawns on the kingside, establishing a weak square at f5, while the black bishop was muffled.

Seirawan's 25 Nd1 started a powerful repositioning of this piece. On 25...Rb3, he could have played 26 Nd6!

Dimitrov, overlooking Seirawan's sly little combination, fell into 29 Ne4 Rd5 30 Qe6 Kg7 31 Ne7! If 31...Qc7, then 32 Qf6 Kg8 33 Qf8 mate. Seirawan's super-precise

endgame technique did the rest. For example: 33...Bg7 loses to 34 Qf7! Bf6 35 Qf8 mate; 34...Qc7 loses to 35 Rf8! Qg8 36 Nf7 mate; 50...Bd8 51 Nd8 Kg8 52 Ne6 Bf6 loses to 53 Ne5 Kb7 54 Nf8 Kh8 55 Nf7 mate.

After 71 g5!, the white pawns were heading for their queening squares whether or not the sacrificed knight was captured. Dimitrov gave up.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	g6	31 Kf1	Rd1
2 c4	Bg7	32 Bf2	Qd4
3 Nf3	g5	33 Bg3	Rd4
4 Bg5	O-O	34 Kf2	Rd4
5 Nge2	c5	35 Bf2	Rd4
6 O-O	Nge6	36 Bf2	Rd4
7 Bc2	e9	37 Bf2	Rd4
8 d5	Nd4	38 Bf2	Rd4
9 Nd4	e11	39 Bf2	Rd4
10 Nd4	Ne4	40 Bf2	Rd4
11 ed	Ne5	41 Bf2	Rd4
12 cd	Ne6	42 Bf2	Rd4
13 Bb1	Ne5	43 Bf2	Rd4
14 f4	Ne4	44 Bf2	Rd4
15 f3	Ne5	45 Bf2	Rd4
16 f4	Ne5	46 Bf2	Rd4
17 Nec3	Ne5	47 Bf2	Rd4
18 f5	Ne5	48 Bf2	Rd4
19 f6	Ne5	49 Bf2	Rd4
20 Bf5	Ne5	50 Bf2	Rd4
21 Rf5	Ne5	51 Bf2	Rd4
22 Bc3	Ne5	52 Bf2	Rd4
23 Bc3	Ne5	53 Bf2	Rd4
24 Bc3	Ne5	54 Bf2	Rd4
25 Nd1	Ne5	55 Bf2	Rd4
26 Nd1	Ne5	56 Bf2	Rd4
27 Qe6	Ne5	57 Bf2	Rd4
28 Qe6	Ne5	58 Bf2	Rd4
29 Ne4	Ne5	59 Bf2	Rd4
30 Qe6	Ne5	60 Bf2	Rd4
31 Ne7	Ne5	61 Bf2	Rd4
32 Qf6	Ne5	62 Bf2	Rd4
33 Qf8	Ne5	63 Bf2	Rd4
34 Qf8	Ne5	64 Bf2	Rd4
35 Kf2	Ne5	65 Bf2	Rd4

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The Fine Art of Shopping, London to Mexico

By Alexander Lobrano

PARIS — The tall, red-haired woman in the full-length mirror surveys the sides of the Monoprix on Avenue de l'Opera with the alert concentration of someone spearfishing. Slowly she circles the makeup counter at this discount-chain store, and then, suddenly, in the housewares department, she strikes. Holding up a pair of Provencal print oven mitts, she beams with satisfaction.

"My kitchen at home in Connecticut is done in French-country style, and it's impossible to find good accessories like these locally without spending a fortune," Suzy Gershman explains. "All the potholders in the U.S. are printed with cats or ugly colonial motifs. Monoprix really is just fabulous."

Here is not an opinion to be taken lightly, either. As the author of the hugely popular "Born-to-Shop" guidebooks, published in the United States and Britain by HarperCollins, Gershman is perhaps the quintessential international shopping maven. A fervent believer in the very American concept of shopping as a primary leisure activity — "I love the color and drama of it, and a visit to a supermarket, for example, in another country is the best way to zero in on its daily-life reality" — Gershman clocks thousands of miles a year in search of the whole-sale grail. If finding a bargain, however, is her ultimate goal, she also works hard and systematically to make sure that her readers will not only know the best places to buy discounted cashmere sweaters in England, for example, but that they'll also have a good time while on the hunt.

The "Born-to-Shop" series, which includes guides covering Britain, London, Italy, Mexico, New York, New England and Hong Kong, as well as a completely revised Paris guide that will be out this spring, don't offer just a list of shops but detailed strategies for charging your way successfully across the retail landscape of a given city or country. Though she details the local particularities shoppers might encounter, including, in "Born-to-Shop Mexico," detailed advice for the most hygienic approach to the toilets on intercity buses, Gershman's golden rules for finding Nirvana in a shopping bag form a general overview.

"The first step to a successful shopping experience is to go to a museum and familiarize yourself with the art of the place you're going," Gershman says. "To shop well, you have to have a general knowledge of the very best of everything that's to be found locally. Then you have a lot of research to do, to find out what's made there and what the best buys are supposed to be."

"What people often forget is how many competing demands there are on your time when traveling, so show up ready to go. You can't expect to get into town and see big signs that say 'This Way to the Cute.' So by the time you land, you should have already familiarized yourself with the layout of the city you're visiting, drawn up lists of what you want to buy and shops you want to visit grouped according to neighborhood."



Suzy Gershman, the author of the "Born-to-Shop" guidebooks.

All of Gershman's books contain her trademark "Moscow Rule of Shopping," which translates to: If you see something you like, buy it immediately. You're often wrong if you think you'll come back to shop later, or if you do it might be gone. Exceptions to this rule are the ubiquitous tourist items — in which case, you can scout around for the best price and items that are produced in a certain region — obviously, it would be silly to buy Czech glass in London if your next stop is Prague.

Gershman also believes that you have to follow your instincts. Indecision in the face of an antique wooden carousel horse? Gershman has the solution — ask yourself: "Is this an item I can't live without, even if I am overpaying tremendously? If the answer is yes, buy it now."

Gershman's guides are not only chock-full of information — she recommends hotels, restaurants and cafés as well as shops — but an amusing read. Gershman on Manchester: "Think of Manchester, England, as an industrial city without an ounce of beauty or charm? Think again. Manchester is actually a shopper's paradise. Behind every brick building and smokestack lies a factory outlet." Gershman's mini-history of Mexico: "Cortés took about two years to make his way to Teotihuacán, so the Spanish colonial period is traditionally dated from 1521. Yet the looting and the craving for local goods began the day Spanish boots set down on Mexican soil. And while Cortés introduced many Spanish arts and crafts to the country, he was really on a buying trip for the king of Spain. After all, this was

before Bloomingdale's and El Corte Ingles." Most importantly, though, Gershman's books brim with valuable tips and intelligent suggestions. A sampling: "If you only have time for one department store in London go to Liberty's, which is much more interesting than Harrods." "The Hermès store in Mexico City is definitely worth a visit; since these fabulous scarves cost \$250 in New York, the \$170 price tag in the brand-new store in Polanco is indeed a bargain."

Having previously worked at the White House press office under Lyndon B. Johnson, in Time magazine's Los Angeles bureau and as the style editor for People magazine, Gershman began her series in 1984.

"I was hunching with some friends. They were all rich Beverly Hills housewives and we began exchanging shopping secrets, which gave me the idea that this information was valuable," Gershman says. "As people travel more often and become more sophisticated, specialty travel publishing continues to grow. Today, it makes as much sense to resort to a shopping guidebook as it does to a food guidebook."

More than one million "Born-to-Shop" guidebooks later it's obvious that Gershman's hunch was golden.

GERSHMAN, who is originally from San Antonio, Texas, says she grew up with a taste for bargains because of regular cross-border shopping trips to Mexico and frequent travels with her father, who was chairman of the World Health Organization in Geneva. Not surprisingly, Gershman has also become expert in packing and the art of carry-on plane luggage, and offers tips. For example: If you're planning to carry a lot of bulky packages aboard a plane as hand luggage, "Wrap them in children's birthday paper to evoke the goodwill of your fellow passengers."

In the end, though, Gershman says, "I'm not about getting things. I'm about learning and ideas. Shopping is sociology."

In addition to her books, Gershman also does shopping tours and soon she will be aboard the QE2 as the shopping expert, lecturing on good buys in ports of call and leading shopping expeditions ashore.

"It was Richard Branson who put me into the tour business," Gershman said. "He called and asked if I could arrange a shopping tour of Hong Kong for his family. It was a great success — we found silk blouses for \$5 — so I started working with several cruise lines."

Finally, for all of Gershman's lucid, lively advice on best buys in such shopping meccas as Paris and New York, one can't help but wonder: Is there any place that a time-pressed, world-roving shopper should avoid?

"Well," says Gershman pensively, "Oslo on a Sunday is pretty bad."

Alexander Lobrano is a journalist based in Paris.



Ross Bleckner in his studio with his painting "Family Plot."

By Steven Henry Madoff

NEW YORK — The case for and against Ross Bleckner goes to trial on Friday, with about 70 paintings put before the jury in the spiral galleries of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City. For the art world, it will be next to impossible to appraise the evidence without prejudice.

Bleckner, 45, is as well known as a socialite and fund-raiser for AIDS causes as he is as an art star poured from that white-hot crucible of the '80s downtown scene. Mary Boone's SoHo gallery.

Party boy or serious painter? Whether one or the other, or both, he has been written up and torn down more than practically any other American artist in the last few years. The flood of ink, like the prodigious flow of black and white paint that has covered most of Bleckner's dark, theatrical canvases over the years, reveals a fascination with this artist who is drawn to gloom and glamour in equal measures.

You'll find him in the gossip sheets smiling out between the faces of Kelly Klein and Barry Diller, David Geffen and Bianca Jagger. And you'll find him in Artforum magazine's critiques, where he's praised for the intelligence and craft of his painting, or in the pages of The New York Times, where Roberta Smith offered the withering one-liner, "Ross Bleckner's ambition as a painter continues to surpass the results."

No doubt, all of the press has contributed to his success, with his paintings bringing in up to \$125,000 for a large picture and an A-list of prominent museum and private collectors.

But what turns out to be far more vivid than the piles of critics' yeas and nays is the artist's blunt notions of his ambition. His speech is rapid, amiable, enthusiastic — with a delivery that can be pure borscht belt.

"Listen," he says with a hoarse New York accent, his mouth going impish at the corners. "It's like Jean Renoir said: The problem with the world is that everybody's got their reasons. You go to a movie, and half the people think it's great and the other half think it stinks. Everybody's right. If I let people into my studio and into my life, they've got opinions, opinions, opinions."

"You know what I think my ambition is? It's to be a witness and stand at this intersection between my life and my times. If I find a coordinate that's got some resonance for people, that people can re-

late to, then they're happy and I'm happy." Bleckner grew up in well-to-do Hewlett Harbor on Long Island. His father was a manufacturer of precision parts. From an early age, the artist-to-be felt "interiorized," as he puts it, because he was gay. He escaped into art.

At New York University he studied art and then went on to take a master's degree at California Institute of the Arts in Valencia in the early '70s.

Today he's talking about all of this in his pristine two-story studio in the loft building in TriBeCa that he bought with a loan from his father in 1974. Unshaven and relaxed, in jeans and a purple sweater with holes at the elbows, he is taking a break from adding the last touches to paintings for his Guggenheim survey — images that range from brushily painted flowers on a darkened background of abstract patches to ghostly hummingbirds in midflight that have about them a wistfulness and melancholy that are trademarks of Bleckner's art.

"You have to talk about what you don't want to talk about," Bleckner says, "not what's easy. And I mean the sense of urgency, of loss and commemoration."

THEN he leans back in his chair, smiles and shifts the subject. "It's like there are some people who walk by a mirror and look, and there are some who don't. I'm one of those people who does. But it's not because I think I'm so gorgeous. It's to make sure I'm there. You know what I mean? It's like I'm the kind of person who needs some public acknowledgment of who I am so that I know I'm not just a crazy person living at an airport in L.A."

Whatever lies beneath the skin, Bleckner's charity work as president of the board of Community Research Initiative on AIDS, a New York nonprofit organization, has intensified his presence in high society's spotlight in recent years.

"And yet," says Robert Storr, a curator of painting and sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art, "though it's easy to take Ross apart because of the facile aspect of his work, he makes what you might call assertively world-weary paintings that have a great deal of energy and ambition. They're memorable. You can't write him off."

Steven Henry Madoff, who edited Artnews magazine from 1987 to 1994, wrote this for The New York Times.



Menswear: The Goatee

By Don Oldenburg
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — What a difference a goatee makes. The current Rolling Stone cover story on Ethan Hawke begins that way. It blames the 24-year-old actor's facial hair, which could charitably be described as a scruffy stubble, in part for transforming his image. He's gone from the cute kid in Disney's "White Fang" to the existential head-ache he portrayed in "Reality Bites" and apparently off-screen since then as well.

As young Hawke's chin goes, one could argue, so goes a generation of Americans. If you haven't noticed, in the past year or so, goatees have been growing on the chins mostly of young men at a rate not witnessed since the Beat Generation drummed bongos and recited free verse in smoke-filled coffeehouses in the '50s.

But what for centuries has been the bearded domain of society's creative types — poets, artists, intellectuals, jazz and folk musicians, and revolutionaries — chin fringe undeniably has gone mainstream.

"It is definitely a trend," says Cristophe, the bi-coastal hair stylist best known for coiffing the Clintons. Three weeks ago, Cristophe experimented with his own chin hairs before deciding he "isn't a facial hair kind of guy" and shaving them off. But he has watched goatees (and Vandykes, which add the mustache) grow in popularity.

"Deadheads and the music business may have brought it back," he speculates about the roots of the trend from his Los Angeles salon.

Indeed, the pages of Rolling Stone reveal other hip chins that have gathered moss: among them, Red Hot Chili Pepper Dave Navarro wears a traditional devilish version that actually forms the definitive point, and former Beastie Boys turntable techie Hurricane shows the rapper 'tee.

In other pages too: This week's Time magazine, for instance, pictures a Pennsylvania high schooler with a precise Vandyke, Brad Pitt looking like one of the Dutch Masters, and the "American Gothic" farmer with a buzz cut and goatee.

All of which begs the Ethan Hawke question: What difference does a goatee make? After two I-don't-knows, Justin, a 16-year-old on Bishop McNamara High School's soccer team here admitted he grew his blond goatee specifically to add an element of danger to his looks. "I wanted to look intimidating in soccer," he says.

Scott Mimos adopted his Vandyke "by accident," when he shipped while trimming his beard. "Everybody told me they

liked it. And I like it," says Mimos, 32. The public information officer for the Department of Energy, who admits he was disturbed when his psychologist also grew one, otherwise knows of no deep-seated motives behind his goatee. "It's more of an 'in' thing now."

BUT Ruth Rubinstein, a sociologist at the Fashion Institute in New York, sees the resurgence of goatees as today's young men staking their claim to something very basic in an increasingly androgynous fashion world, where young women wear baggy pants and caps backward with the boys.

"I think this is something different," says the author of "Dress Codes: Meanings and Messages in American Culture" (Westfield Press). "This may be an attempt to reaffirm their masculinity," she says. "Women can't possibly grow beards."

If once the symbol of non-conformity and individuality, goatees now seem nothing more than the cutting edge of facial fashion to the actor Bob Dever, who introduced the quintessential beatnik goatee to baby boomers as the Maynard G. Krebs character in the late '50s sitcom "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis."

"The beatniks had some kind of goatees and protest cats always had beards," says Denver, whose 1993 biography "Gilligan, Maynard and Me" recounts gluing on a goatee to test for the Krebs part. "It has nothing to do with any kind of thought or, I'm sure, cosmetic is all it is."

On April 10th, the IHT will publish in its Asian edition the second installment of a Special Report on

ASIA/PACIFIC: THE NEW CONSUMERS

Among the topics to be covered are:

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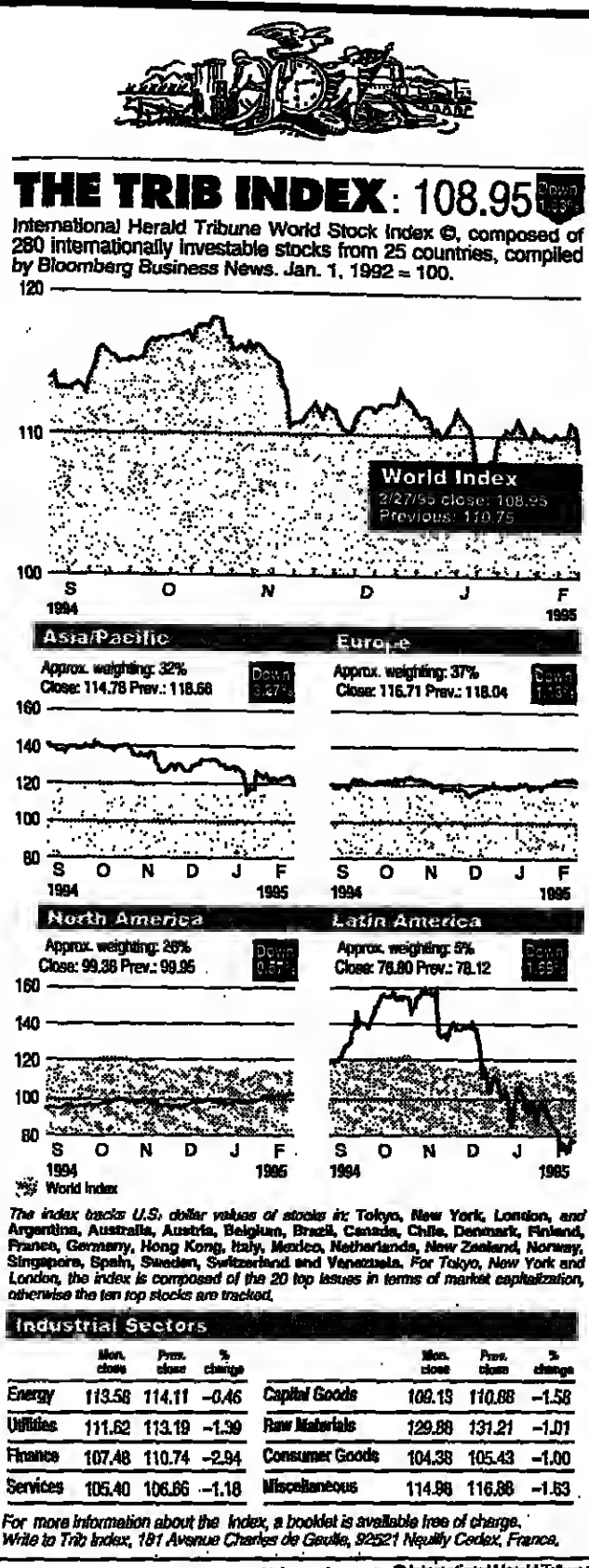
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1995

PAGE 11



Copyright Piracy's British Side

Focus Is on China, but Hong Kong Market Thrives

By Edward A. Gargan
New York Times Service

HONG KONG — Bill Gates, America's maestro of software, may be having trouble shipping Windows 95, his long-awaited computer operating system, but here, at the corner of Fuk Wa and Kwei-lin streets where sidewalk chefs stir woks filled with squid and kettles simmer with white-skinned ducks, Windows 95 is selling briskly.

"It's the newest thing," said a smiling salesman at the Golden Arcade Computer Center, two stories crisscrossed with shops busily selling pirated computer programs, disks and video games. The pirated copy of Windows 95 was selling for 300 Hong Kong dollars, or about \$39.

Windows 95 has yet to be released by Microsoft Corp., which has set August as the release time. But a copy of the beta, or test, version of Windows 95 is just one of thousands of software programs available here and at dozens of other shops across Hong Kong.

Encyclopedias, children's educational games, networking software and popular office software bundles are all on sale at a small fraction of the cost of licensed software.

The intellectual-property agreement that the United States reached Sunday with China addresses only part of the global piracy problem. The pact largely

ignores the main buyers of the 75 million pirated compact disks made by factories in southern China. These include consumers in Taiwan, Thailand and, most notably, the British colony of Hong Kong. Indeed, per-capita consumption of pirated material in Hong Kong dwarfs that of China.

What sets Hong Kong apart from China and other developing countries is the pervasiveness of pirated material throughout all segments of society, from the back alleys of Kowloon to the executive suites of major companies, according to the police and industry associations.

Even more, the sophistication of software that is pirated and, if word among users is to be believed, the adeptness with which some commercial software is modified and improved, has created an almost unrivaled variety of illegal usage.

One shop displayed a CD-ROM, or compact disk with read-only memory, packed with 75 programs, the total value of which would run well into the thousands of dollars if purchased legally. The cornucopia of programs was selling for 250 Hong Kong dollars.

To lend a tincture of authenticity, the disk carried a printed warning against unauthorized copying.

The International Intellectual Property Alliance, a Washington-based trade group that represents industries with copyright concerns, estimates that losses to U.S.

companies from copyright infringement in Hong Kong average \$21.85 per resident, or \$131 million a year.

By contrast, the group figures, piracy of copyrighted material in China itself costs American business about 73 cents a person, or \$866 million annually.

The alliance compiles data from the movie, software, recording and publishing industries on copyright losses to American companies and submits the data annually to the U.S. trade representative.

The data are then used to determine which countries are placed on a so-called priority list, like China, and a series of less severe watch lists.

"Now Hong Kong has gotten to be a real problem country," said Eric Smith, the president of the alliance. "It's getting worse because China is getting worse. CD-ROMs are a new phenomenon, and this is causing great concern in the software industry."

In a rundown customs building along the Hong Kong waterfront, Tong Wai-ki, a senior inspector for the investigations branch of the Customs and Excise Department, hustled down a flight of stairs with three other officers. They piled into a white van and sped toward the night markets of Hong Kong.

"We're trying to find hawkers with CDs," Mr. Tong said. "Right now, we're

See PIRACY, Page 12

Traders Flock To Mark Amid Financial Crisis

German Currency Hits High On Barings and EU Worry

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — The Deutsche mark surged against other major currencies Monday, reaching record highs against the pound and lira, as investors sought a haven from the financial turmoil sparked by the collapse of Barings PLC.

Barings, Britain's oldest merchant bank, was forced into receivership after suffering derivative-related losses of more than \$1 billion.

In New York, the dollar rose against most major currencies, rebounding from losses as concern faded that the collapse of Barings would lead to an international financial crisis.

Worries about repercussions on other financial institutions had prompted investors to shift their money into the Swiss and German cash markets, which are typically most insulated from international asset market turbulence.

The mark surged to record highs against the pound and the Italian lira and rose to a 28-month high against the dollar.

"Once again, the focus is on the strength of the Deutsche mark, derived from its status as a safe haven," said Robin Poynder, director of treasury at Charterhouse Bank.

The pound fell as low as 2,295.4 DM and closed at 2,316.6 DM, down from 2,321.2 DM on Friday. The mark rose as high as 1,165.92 lire and closed at 1,141.74 lire, up from 1,119.93 lire Friday.

After falling to a low of 1,453.0 DM, the dollar recovered to close in New York at 1,465.8 DM late, up from 1,461.0 DM on Friday.

The dollar was mixed against other major currencies. The pound fell to \$1.5805 from \$1.5885 Friday. The dollar slipped to 1.2430 Swiss francs from 1.2453 francs and to 5.1435 French francs from 5.1485 francs. It closed at 97.075 yen, up from 96.95 yen Friday. The dollar rose to 1,673.00 Italian lire from 1,635.00 lire.

Meanwhile, the Bank of France allowed a key interest rate to rise for the first time since July on Monday in a move seen aimed at cooling tension on the franc-mark exchange rate, the vital link in the European Monetary System.

The move came as the mark rose to 3.5375 francs, an 18-month high and not far from its all-time high of 3.5470 francs.

Traders said the central bank had allowed call money, the rate at which banks borrow overnight funds, to rise by 5/16 percentage point to 5 9/16 to 5 11/16 percent, its highest level since May.

Although it is not officially controlled by the authorities, the Bank of France has kept a tight lid on call money and has frequently used it to adjust money market rates without moving its official rates.

"The Bank of France is trying to calm things down," one economist at a French bank said. "I think they are reacting to the speed of the drop on Friday and this morning rather than the absolute level of the franc," he said.

The franc tumbled on Friday as worries about the political sit-

See DOLLAR, Page 12

Battle Lines Harden in Bavarian Strike

Reuters

FRANKFURT — The IG Metall union stepped up pressure on employers in Bavaria on Monday, the fourth day of the first full strike in Germany's metalworking industry in 11 years.

With no solution in sight, the union made clear that the disruption would spread throughout Germany if employers retaliated with lockouts.

The union extended its strike Monday to include 15,000 workers at 22 companies, up from 11,000 Friday. It planned to include a further 12 compa-

nies beginning Wednesday and seven more early next week if no deal was reached by then.

Werner Neugebauer, IG Metall's chief in Bavaria, said during a visit to factory picket lines that lockouts would mean a major escalation of the conflict.

"We will make sure that there will be no peace in any town in Bavaria and one day later no peace in any town in Germany" if that happened, Mr. Neugebauer said.

Employers have the right to lock workers out at any company indirectly affected by the

strike and could even lock out workers at factories unaffected by the union's action. The employers are set to decide Thursday whether to impose lockouts.

Mr. Neugebauer repeated the union's call for a 6 percent pay increase and for more talks without preconditions. The union has rejected calls by employers for cost cuts to accompany a pay deal.

Mr. Neugebauer said the union had to be sure any new talks would result in a deal and called on management to send

workers this signal. "There is always the telephone," he said.

Hans-Joachim Gottschol, head of the engineering employers' association Gesamtmetall, told the mass-circulation newspaper Bild on Monday that management was prepared to agree to "a decent pay deal."

But he stuck by the employers' insistence that a five-year-old agreement to introduce a 35-hour week beginning in October, which the employers say would mean a cost increase of 2.8 percent, must somehow be taken into account in any new agreement.

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

West Is Missing Out on Asia's Boom

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The rise of Asia has been one of the most exciting economic developments of the second half of the 20th century. And yet the West, particularly Western Europe, has tended to react defensively rather than get actively involved. It may soon be too late to rectify that mistake.

Of course, the United States and Europe have hugely expanded their exports to the fast-growing Asian markets. But they have concentrated too much on worrying how to protect their own markets from Asian competition and not enough on investing directly in the Asian boom.

Asia is fast being developed by Asians themselves and is daily growing less dependent on the West, both for capital and for markets. As many of the region's economies prepare to upgrade themselves from labor-intensive to high-technology production, a new study argues that now is perhaps the last chance for the West to climb on the bandwagon.

The study, by Wolfgang Veit and Theda Fuchs of Deutsche Bank Research in Frankfurt, focuses on the nine newly industrializing economies — China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. Excluding Japan, they account for nine-tenths of the region's exports. Five are members of the Association of South East Asian Nations.

European investors have played only a minor role in the region's development, the study says, and Americans have not done much better. The United States is the largest non-Asian investor in the region, but its investment in the ASEAN countries is equal to or less than that of Hong Kong and Singapore. There is

Asia is fast being developed by Asians themselves and is growing less dependent on the West, both for capital and for markets.

more Taiwanese than American investment in China.

Washington certainly wants to expand its presence. It is pressing its partners in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to start constructing the free-trade area to which the 18 APEC countries agreed in principle in Indonesia in November. But Mr. Veit argues that this effort will bear fruit too slowly.

De facto, business-driven economic integration is advancing so rapidly in East Asia that most of the best investment and trading opportunities will have been snapped up well before the free-trade area comes into force for APEC's industrial members in 2010, Mr. Veit says.

The Asian APEC members will integrate much faster among themselves than they will with the American members. And they will do so without the need for formal intergovernmental arrangements, just as they have up to now.

Other economists agree that by the time the APEC free-trade area comes into force, the Asian economies will be reaching the limits of their capacity and growth will be slowing down, as it already has in Japan.

That means that if they do not invest soon, U.S. and European companies will miss out on the structural change in the region's economy as it catches up technologically with the West. In 10 to 15 years, Mr. Veit says, Asia won't need Western investment any more.

But that's not the only danger. If the West resorts to protectionism, for instance by trying to impose Western environmental and labor standards on the developing Asian countries, it risks losing the lead it still has over Asia in human capital and technology. Mr. Veit warns: "The West would then have lost its last domain."

Closing Western markets would oblige Asians to speed up their own economic integration and stifle the forces of innovation in the West.

But there is some good news. Asia's unstructured, ad hoc form of economic integration means that the West is unlikely ever to face a hostile Fortress Asia — at least not unless it builds a Fortress Europe and a Fortress America first.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	£	DM	F	Lira	Yen	₹	₹	₹
Australia	1.50	1.27	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
Canada	1.33	1.10	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
France	1.66	1.35	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48
Germany	1.93	1.56	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71
Italy	1.93	1.56	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71
Japan	1.37	1.10	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
UK	1.50	1.27	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
US	1.00	0.75	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83
Other Dollar Values									
Australia	1.50	1.27	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
Canada	1.33	1.10	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
France	1.66	1.35	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48
Germany	1.93	1.56	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71
Italy	1.93	1.56	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71
Japan	1.37	1.10	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
UK	1.50	1.27	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
US	1.00	0.75	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83
Forward Rates									
Australia	1.50	1.27	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
Canada	1.33	1.10	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
France	1.66	1.35	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48
Germany	1.93	1.56	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71
Italy	1.93	1.56	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71
Japan	1.37	1.10	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
UK	1.50	1.27	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37	1.37
US	1.00	0.75	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83

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12/19/91	0.00	1.00	15.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
12/20/91	0.00	1.00	15.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
12/21/91	0.00	1.00	15.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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1/22/92	0.00	1.00	15.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1/23/92	0.00	1.00	15.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1/24/92	0.00	1.00	15.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1/25/92	0.00	1.00	15.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1/26/92	0.00	1.00	15.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
1/27/92	0.00	1.00	15.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

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時間	緯度	經度	高度	方位	距離	速度	方向	備考
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0005	10° 01' N	105° 01' E	101	001	0.1	0.1	001	
0010	10° 02' N	105° 02' E	102	002	0.2	0.2	002	
0015	10° 03' N	105° 03' E	103	003	0.3	0.3	003	
0020	10° 04' N	105° 04' E	104	004	0.4	0.4	004	
0025	10° 05' N	105° 05' E	105	005	0.5	0.5	005	
0030	10° 06' N	105° 06' E	106	006	0.6	0.6	006	
0035	10° 07' N	105° 07' E	107	007	0.7	0.7	007	
0040	10° 08' N	105° 08' E	108	008	0.8	0.8	008	
0045	10° 09' N	105° 09' E	109	009	0.9	0.9	009	
0050	10° 10' N	105° 10' E	110	010	1.0	1.0	010	
0055	10° 11' N	105° 11' E	111	011	1.1	1.1	011	
0100	10° 12' N	105° 12' E	112	012	1.2	1.2	012	
0105	10° 13' N	105° 13' E	113	013	1.3	1.3	013	
0110	10° 14' N	105° 14' E	114	014	1.4	1.4	014	
0115	10° 15' N	105° 15' E	115	015	1.5	1.5	015	
0120	10° 16' N	105° 16' E	116	016	1.6	1.6	016	
0125	10° 17' N	105° 17' E	117	017	1.7	1.7	017	
0130	10° 18' N	105° 18' E	118	018	1.8	1.8	018	
0135	10° 19' N	105° 19' E	119	019	1.9	1.9	019	
0140	10° 20' N	105° 20' E	120	020	2.0	2.0	020	
0145	10° 21' N	105° 21' E	121	021	2.1	2.1	021	
0150	10° 22' N	105° 22' E	122	022	2.2	2.2	022	
0155	10° 23' N	105° 23' E	123	023	2.3	2.3	023	
0200	10° 24' N	105° 24' E	124	024	2.4	2.4	024	
0205	10° 25' N	105° 25' E	125	025	2.5	2.5	025	
0210	10° 26' N	105° 26' E	126	026	2.6	2.6	026	
0215	10° 27' N	105° 27' E	127	027	2.7	2.7	027	
0220	10° 28' N	105° 28' E	128	028	2.8	2.8	028	
0225	10° 29' N	105° 29' E	129	029	2.9	2.9	029	
0230	10° 30' N	105° 30' E	130	030	3.0	3.0	030	
0235	10° 31' N	105° 31' E	131	031	3.1	3.1	031	
0240	10° 32' N	105° 32' E	132	032	3.2	3.2	032	
0245	10° 33' N	105° 33' E	133	033	3.3	3.3	033	
0250	10° 34' N	105° 34' E	134	034	3.4	3.4	034	
0255	10° 35' N	105° 35' E	135	035	3.5	3.5	035	
0300	10° 36' N	105° 36' E	136	036	3.6	3.6	036	
0305	10° 37' N	105° 37' E	137	037	3.7	3.7	037	
0310	10° 38' N	105° 38' E	138	038	3.8	3.8	038	
0315	10° 39' N	105° 39' E	139	039	3.9	3.9	039	
0320	10° 40' N	105° 40' E	140	040	4.0	4.0	040	
0325	10° 41' N	105° 41' E	141	041	4.1	4.1	041	
0330	10° 42' N	105° 42' E	142	042	4.2	4.2	042	
0335	10° 43' N	105° 43' E	143	043	4.3	4.3	043	
0340	10° 44' N	105° 44' E	144	044	4.4	4.4	044	
0345	10° 45' N	105° 45' E	145	045	4.5	4.5	045	
0350	10° 46' N	105° 46' E	146	046	4.6	4.6	046	
0355	10° 47' N	105° 47' E	147	047	4.7	4.7	047	
0400	10° 48' N	105° 48' E	148	048	4.8	4.8	048	
0405	10° 49' N	105° 49' E	149	049	4.9	4.9	049	
0410	10° 50' N	105° 50' E	150	050	5.0	5.0	050	
0415	10° 51' N	105° 51' E	151	051	5.1	5.1	051	
0420	10° 52' N	105° 52' E	152	052	5.2	5.2	052	
0425	10° 53' N	105° 53' E	153	053	5.3	5.3	053	
0430	10° 54' N	105° 54' E	154	054	5.4	5.4	054	
0435	10° 55' N	105° 55' E	155	055	5.5	5.5	055	
0440	10° 56' N	105° 56' E	156	056	5.6	5.6	056	
0445	10° 57' N	105° 57' E	157	057	5.7	5.7	057	
0450	10° 58' N	105° 58' E	158	058	5.8	5.8	058	
0455	10° 59' N	105° 59' E	159	059	5.9	5.9	059	
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BEIJING

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KUNMING

**Fly smooth as s
major cities in Chi**



SHANGHAI

GUANGZHOU

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一、關於我國經濟建設的方針。我國經濟建設的方針，是發展生產，繁榮經濟，改善民生，增加就業，穩定物價，保障金融，發展貿易，加強交通，改善教育，提高技術，加強國防，保障安全。

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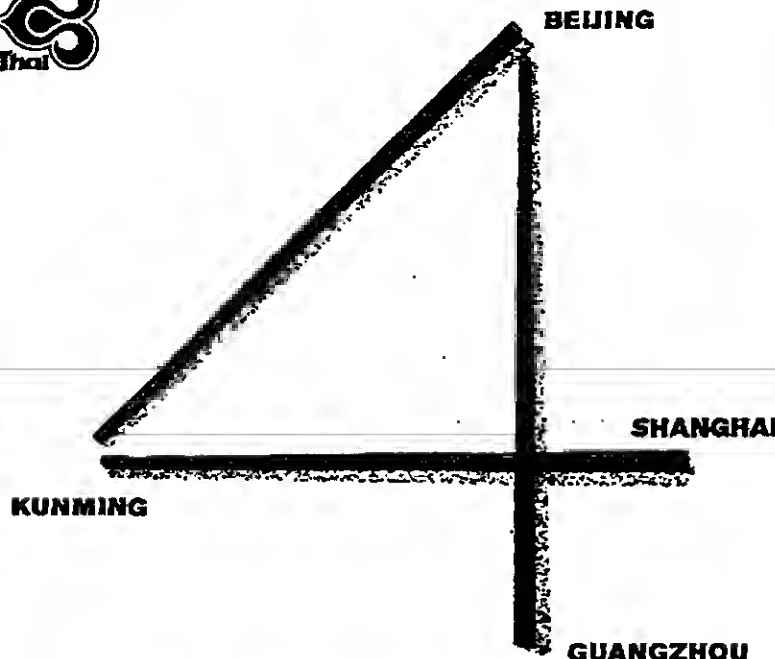
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一、本會定於陽曆九月一日（即農曆八月十一日）在
 本會禮堂舉行籌備委員會成立大會，屆時請各委員
 準時出席，並請各委員將籌備委員會成立大會之
 決議事項，分別函達各屬下各分會，以便各分會
 遵照辦理。此致各分會。

Shanghai
Trading Ag
Bond Fu

ASDAQ

11. 2000



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هكذا من الامم

ASIA/PACIFIC

Shanghai Halts Trading Again In Bond Futures

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
SHANGHAI — The Shanghai Stock Exchange suspended free trading in bond futures again Monday, instructing investors to cancel out their positions at negotiated prices in a move to limit damage from China's biggest market scandal in years.

The exchange also briefly suspended trading Friday morning but allowed it to resume in the afternoon after imposing price limits.

Creditors Accept Offer From Bond, Erasing His Debts

SYDNEY — Alan Bond, once one of Australia's richest men and the 1983 winner of yachting's America's Cup, was freed from bankruptcy Monday when his creditors accepted a settlement worth less than 1 percent of his debts.

Mr. Bond's personal creditors voted to accept an offer of 3.2 million Australian dollars (\$2.3 million) to settle debts of 622 million dollars.

Robert Ramsay, Mr. Bond's bankruptcy trustee, said he would not continue an investigation into allegations that Mr. Bond had tried to hide millions of dollars of assets in offshore bank accounts.

During legal proceedings last year to ascertain the extent of Mr. Bond's wealth, the former tycoon said psychological and physical problems had left him with memory loss and depression.

No gloom was apparent Monday, however, as Mr. Bond welcomed his creditors' decision and announced that he intended to go back into business as a financial consultant.

Monday's move offered immediate relief to Shanghai International Securities, the brokerage firm at the center of price-rigging accusations. But it enraged some small investors, who charged they had been sacrificed.

A speculative bubble in bond futures that has been building since late last year ballooned out of control Thursday when turnover topped \$100 billion, much of it recorded during a selling binge that began eight minutes before the close.

The exchange canceled trades in the final minutes and launched an inquiry into what it called "serious, deliberate rule violations" by a member firm that it said had tried to "influence the settlement price of the day."

While the exchange did not name the firm, analysts said it was Shanghai International Securities.

One angry investor, Tao Tie, waved his fists at securities guards Monday on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. He said he had lost at least 70,000 yuan (\$8,300) when the trades were canceled last week and that some of his friends had also lost money.

"I didn't do anything wrong," he said. "Why should I bear responsibility for losses? No one protects middle and small investors like us."

Meanwhile, Shanghai International Securities said Monday it was not the only brokerage under investigation for manipulating treasury bond futures and that smaller firms were involved and might be in danger of bankruptcy.

David Wei, a spokesman, said some of his firm's traders were under "so much pressure" after other companies bid prices up Thursday that they forced prices down, breaking trading rules.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

China's Aviation Sector Takes Off

Western Firms Vie to Help Its 'People's Plane' Quest

By Patrick E. Tyler
New York Times Service

XIAN, China — In an assembly hall here where the Chinese military builds its strategic nuclear bomber, Boeing Co. is teaching the work force how to build the aft section of a Boeing 737.

In the southwestern Sichuan Province, in a factory where China has been developing its first supersonic jet fighter, McDonnell Douglas Corp. is producing ogee sections for MD-80 and MD-90 passenger jets. In Shanghai, agreements for the final assembly of 20 McDonnell Douglas passenger aircraft have been completed.

And in the northeastern city of Shenyang, Airbus Industrie is showing Chinese engineers how to apply carbon-fiber technology to aircraft components.

As with its strategy to build a "people's car" in a revitalized auto industry, China now seems to be tooling up to build a "people's plane" in a booming commercial-aircraft market. It is relying on the technical and manufacturing expertise of Western companies to do it.

China's cooperative ventures with Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Airbus are just the first stage of an ambitious drive to build its own commercial-aircraft industry.

China is already negotiating with South Korea to build a 100-seat passenger jet that could meet international safety standards and compete for sales throughout Asia.

But Chinese aviation authorities say that is just a near-term goal. "The final goal is to develop and build a 180-seat aircraft that is up to international standards," the state-run Aviation Industries Inc. said last fall.

The market in Asia is enormous. Boeing's commercial airplane group has estimated that Asian air carriers will purchase 3,340 planes at a cost of \$280 billion over the next 15 years. Chinese airlines alone are expected to buy 600 to 800 passenger jets, a market that Boeing's president for China, Michael J. Zimmerman, has put at \$60 billion.

To tap into this market, the

its own commercial aircraft industry is a matter of national pride.

"Currently, airplanes are being manufactured only by Western countries," Prime Minister Li Peng said during a visit to Seoul in October. "And so it is very significant for China and South Korea to proceed cooperatively in their production."

While many aviation ana-

what is left of the American aerospace industry.

The airline companies have said that if they did not transfer production to China, they would simply lose the market to competitors.

McDonnell's China president, Peter K. Chapman, bluntly stated the company's view recently: "We're in the business of making money for our shareholders. If we have to put jobs and technology in other countries, then we go ahead and do it."

U.S. law forbids the transfer of certain technologies that can be used in advanced weapons. Boeing, for instance, will not allow the Xian plant to work with carbon-fiber 737 components, because the transfer of such dual-use technology is barred by sanctions dating to the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators near Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Carbon fiber, which is light but extremely hard, is used to make parts for warplanes and missiles.

However, analysts say, where the Americans hold back, others are likely to rush in. Airbus, for example, is working with Chinese engineers in Shenyang on carbon-fiber applications, according to Rolf Rue, president of Airbus China.

Even so, Beijing's purpose appears to be more economic than military. "Technology transfer is always an issue, but the reality is that China's primary strategy is to keep these huge labor forces employed," one Western diplomat said.

As recently as 1974, China had only 12 passenger aircraft, virtually all Soviet-made. Today it has 350.

Boeing has sold more than 200 passenger jets to China, whose market now represents 14 percent of the company's production. McDonnell Douglas has sold 85 jets and Airbus 34.

As with its strategy to build a 'people's car' in a revitalized auto industry, China now seems to be tooling up to build a 'people's plane' in a booming commercial-aircraft market.

three Western aerospace giants are moving to expand in China. In addition to setting up production operations, Boeing, McDonnell Douglas and Airbus have all set up China divisions with division presidents in Beijing.

And Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, at least, seem eager to help the Chinese create their own aerospace industry. "Ten years from now, they are going to be into an airplane of their own," Mr. Zimmerman said. If that happens, he added, "I think they are going to select one technology partner, and we know we're the preferred one."

China tried to develop its own jetliner in the early 1970s, in an effort that was code-named the "708 project," by copying a 707 that had crashed in Pakistan and was turned over to Beijing as a gift.

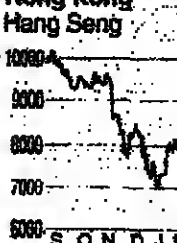
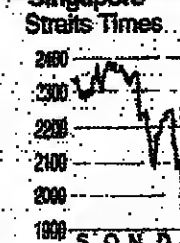
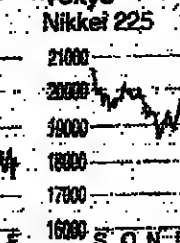
But the Chinese built the prototypes out of steel, not aluminum, and they were so heavy they could barely get off the ground with their weak Chinese-made jet engines. Several test flights were made in the 1980s, but the plane was

never produced commercially. Though China has acknowledged that it needs Western technology, creating such a consortium could get off the ground or find the billions of dollars needed to design and develop a new aircraft, Boeing officials have shown no such skepticism. They have even suggested bringing Japan and Taiwan into the project.

The enthusiasm for U.S. participation in China's aerospace drive is not universal, however.

"This is the last high-technology, high-wage, export-subsidy industry that we have," said George Kourpias, president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, a U.S. labor union.

Mr. Kourpias said that transferring a significant portion of the industry to China as a marketing strategy raised fundamental questions about whether the process would "actually create the competitor of the future, which would come back and compete with

Investor's Asia				
				
Hong Kong Hang Seng	Singapore Straits Times	Tokyo Nikkei 225		
S O N D J F 1994 1995		S O N D J F 1994 1995		
Exchange Index		Monday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	8,126.55	6,218.95	-1.12
Singapore	Straits Times	2,094.10	2,114.52	-0.97
Sydney	All Ordinaries	1,893.20	1,911.10	-0.94
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	15,808.70	17,772.94	-3.90
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	958.79	970.45	-1.72
Bangkok	SET	1,270.77	1,294.19	-1.81
Seoul	Composite Stock	394.80	912.60	-1.97
Taipei	Weighted Price	6,368.57	6,591.36	-3.06
Manila	PSE	2,494.45	2,587.91	-4.00
Jakarta	Stock Index	452.57	454.69	-0.47
New Zealand	NZSE-40	1,990.21	2,000.74	-0.53
Bombay	National Index	Closed	1,618.44	

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The numeral symbols indicate frequency of questions: (I) - daily; (II) - weekly; (III) - biweekly; (IV) - monthly; (V) - quarterly; (VI) - twice weekly; (VII) - monthly.

Feb. 27, 1995

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For information on how to list your fund, fax Catherine de VIENNE at (33-1) 46 37 21 33.

SPORTS

Handicaps Can't Stop Orlando Magic

The Associated Press
With Shaquille O'Neal on suspension and Horace Grant on the sidelines, the Orlando Magic had every excuse to lose to the Chicago Bulls.

But they wanted no part of excuses.

"This would have been a very easy game to just fold up the tents and say, 'Hey, we don't have the manpower. Let's just get it over with and get home,'" Coach Brian Hill said after Orlando beat the Bulls, 105-103, on Anfernee Hardaway's breakaway dunk with seven-tenths of a second left Sunday.

Hardaway scored a career-high 39 points, hitting 17 of 25 shots, to keep the Magic six games ahead of the New York Knicks in the Atlantic Division. The teams play Tuesday at Orlando.

O'Neal was serving a one-game suspension for fighting with Boston's Eric Montross, while Grant was out with back spasms. To make matters worse, the Magic lost its starting forward Donald Royal in the first half when he sprained his ankle.

Orlando trailed the entire second half, squandering three opportunities to tie the game before Dennis Scott made two free throws to make it 103—all with 27 seconds left. The Bulls ran 19 seconds off the shot clock before Toni Kukoc broke free for a layup with 7.1 seconds remaining. But he had no chance to sink the go-ahead basket because Scottie Pippen called a timeout just as Kukoc got the ball from Pete Myers.

When play resumed, it was Kukoc who lost the ball. Hardaway picked it up, sprinted down the court and dunked. "I don't know what happened," said Kukoc, who led the Bulls with 22 points. "I rolled toward the basket and the ball just slipped out of my hands."

Suns 103, Hornets 92: After the Magic's big victory, a victory over Charlotte allowed Phoenix to hold on to its share



Reggie Miller, left, slips a lay-up past Lorenzo Williams.

of the National Basketball Association's best record.

Kevin Johnson, who finished with 17 points, had seven of his 14 assists in the third quarter, helping the Suns bolt from a 49-45 halftime lead to 81-69 advantage.

Charles Barkley scored 24 points, and Wesley Person had 20. Alonzo Mourning led the visiting Hornets with 23 points.

Muggsy Bogues had 11 assists, but was 3 of 16 from the field.

Jazz 110, Nuggets 96: Utah connected on its first 12 shots and went on to beat Denver.

Karl Malone hit 14 of 17 shots and all six free throws for 34 points, marking the sixth time he's scored more than 30 points in the last nine games. John Stockton added 20 points and eight assists as Utah improved its road record to 17-9, second best in the NBA.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf had 19 points for Denver, which is 2-2 since Coach Bernie Bickerstaff took over for Gene Littles.

Pacers 100, Mavericks 92: Indiana won its sixth straight and has its best record at this

point in the season since joining the NBA.

Rik Smits scored 28 points and was 13-for-16 for the game, hitting all 10 of his shots over the final three periods.

The Pacers took their biggest lead at 84-70 on a 3-point play by Smits with 9:17 to go. Visiting Dallas, which got 27 points from Jamal Mashburn, twice closed within five points in the final minutes.

Timberwolves 106, Heat 99: Isaiah Rider and Tom Gugliotta helped Minnesota deny Miami's bid for its first three-game winning streak this season and beat the Heat for the first time in eight games.

Rider scored 38 points. Gugliotta had 17 points, six rebounds and seven assists in his third game with Minnesota after being traded from Golden State.

Billy Owens had 19 points and Glen Rice added 18 for the visiting Heat.

Knicks 104, 76ers 99: New York found its intensity in the second half in rallying past Philadelphia.

Ewing had his fourth straight 30-point game for the Knicks—getting 32 points, 18 rebounds and four blocks.

New York, playing at home, got a lift from the return of power forward Charles Oakley, who had toe surgery Dec. 27.

The 76ers, who have lost eight of their last nine, activated Clarence Weatherston from the injured list before the game, and he led the team with 26 points.

Spurs 129, Warriors 99: San Antonio stayed within 1 1/2 games of division-leading Utah while getting the team's most lopsided victory this season.

Dennis Rodman grabbed 22 rebounds, a club record 15 in the third quarter, and David Robinson scored 30 points.

The Spurs, who had eight players score in double figures, outrebounded Golden State 59-28. The visiting Warriors set a season low for rebounds and had only 11 in the second half.

The Warriors, who dropped their third straight game and eighth in the last 11, were led by Victor Alexander's 23 points.



New York Rangers' goalie Glenn Healy clearing a shot by the Sabres' wing Viktor Gordinok late in the game in Buffalo.

Happy Endings for Teams on the Road

The Associated Press

What home-ice advantage?

The New York Rangers are finding more success playing on the road than at home these days, as underscored by their 4-2 victory at Buffalo.

It was a good day for road teams all around. None of them lost Sunday.

"We're finding ways to win games, and that's good," said the Rangers' goaltender Glenn Healy, who made 22 saves. "We're playing with a little more passion and a little more tenacity."

The Rangers improved their road record to 6-4-0. The defending Stanley Cup champions are 3-4-2 at Madison Square Garden, where they lost only eight games last season.

Mark Messier had the tiebreaker for New York in Sunday night's game.

The game was tied at 2 when New York's Sergei Zubov cleared a loose puck over Buffalo defenseman Mark Astley. Buffalo goaltender Dominik Hasek attempted to beat Messier to the puck, but the forward sent a wrist shot into the

empty net. Zubov scored two goals for the Rangers, his second going into an empty net from the other end of the ice.

Buffalo had tied the game with 7:22 left in the game when Dave Hannan tipped in a loose puck in front of the New York net. Blackhawks 2, Stars 1: Ed Belfour stopped 23 Dallas shots and defenseman

ahead goal with 7:46 remaining, to lead Calgary over the Mighty Ducks.

Kennedy and Kevin Dahl scored their first goals of the season as the Flames overcame a two-goal deficit with four consecutive goals and beat Anaheim for the fifth straight time. The Flames improved to 4-3-2 on the road.

Calgary's Trevor Kidd, the only National Hockey League goaltender to start every game so far this season, had 20 saves. Anaheim's Guy Hebert stopped 23 shots.

Canucks 5, Sharks 1: Geoff Courtnall scored on a power play 51 seconds into the game, and four other Vancouver players added goals, leading the Canucks over the San Jose Sharks behind Kirk McLean's 26 saves.

The Canucks won their second straight road game and are 3-1-2 in their last seven overall, while the Sharks extended their losing streak to five games. San Jose is 2-7-2 in its last 11 games.

Pavel Bure added a goal and two assists, while Sergio Momesso, Josef Beranek and Gary Leeman also scored. Todd Elik scored for the Sharks.

NHL ROUNDUP

Eric Weinrich scored a tiebreaker in the first period as Chicago clinched its sixth victory in seven road games.

Capitals 1, Lightning 1: Dave Poulin scored early in the third period to give the Capitals a tie with Tampa Bay in a matchup of weary teams playing their third game in four days.

Poulin's tying goal, with 19:28 left in regulation, was Washington's only shot in the third period. The Capitals then managed only one shot in the overtime en route to their third straight tie.

Flames 5, Mighty Ducks 3: Sheldon Kennedy scored twice, including the go-

Hoyas Regain Rankings, as Syracuse Continues Free-Fall

The Associated Press

Call off the search. Othella Harrington has been found.

Georgetown's junior center broke out of a season-long funk Sunday with 27 points as the Hoyas kept up their late-season charge and continued Syracuse's late-season collapse with an 81-78 victory.

"I don't think they forgot about me," the 6-foot-9 (2.1-meter) Harrington said of his teammates and his 10.6 scoring average. "The other guys did a great job getting me the ball, and I was on top of my game today."

Harrington was 10-for-15 from the field and 7-of-10 from the foul line, and it was his 12 points over an eight-minute span bridging the halves that rallied Georgetown from a 40-26 deficit to a 51-50 lead with 14:06 to play. He had only two points in the Orange-John's victory at Georgetown last month.

"Harrington was the difference," Syracuse's coach, Jim Boeheim, said. "He has not really had big games this year and they haven't gotten him the ball. Today they got him the ball. We really made an effort to get back in a zone and double-team him as much as we could. He just had the answers."

The loss was the fifth in seven games for Syracuse, which fell from 17th to 22d in the new rankings.

Allen Iverson added with 21 points for Georgetown, which was coming off a 77-52 rout of Villanova and has won three straight after losing three in a row.

The Hoyas moved within a game of third-place Syracuse in the conference standings and moved back into the rankings at No. 21.

"We did a pretty good job of getting the ball inside to Othella inside their zone. He did a good job of scoring inside," Georgetown's coach John

Thompson said. "I have confidence in him. I just think he has to fight through this thing, so I felt good for him today."

Harrington, who did score 21 points twice this season, was the Big East rookie of the year two years ago and

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

was a second-team All-Big East pick last season. He has seen his scoring average decline from 16.8 to 14.7 to this year's 10.8.

A driving lay-up by Jerome Williams gave the Hoyas a 78-73 lead with one minute to play. Lawrence Moten, who led the Orangemen with 19 points, made a 3-pointer with 33 seconds left to make it 78-76.

After Boubacar Aw made one of two free throws for Georgetown, Todd Burgan tipped in a missed shot with 16

seconds left to make it a one-point game. John Jacques made two free throws and then Doo Reid blocked Michael Lloyd's 3-point attempt with 4.6 seconds remaining and Burgan missed a long 3-pointer as time expired.

No. 1 UCLA 100, Duke 77: The Bruins won for the fifth time in 11 days and became the season's sixth No. 1 team with their ninth straight victory.

Ed O'Bannon had a career-high 37 points, including 11 in a 15-6 run that gave UCLA a 76-63 lead with 5:48 to play. The Bruins broke the game open with a highlights-video dunking exhibition over the final minutes. Cherokee Parks had 21 points to lead visiting Duke.

No. 9 Wake Forest 66, No. 13 Virginia 63: The Demon Deacons became a factor in the Atlantic Coast Conference race with the home victory that

brought them within one game of lead-games Maryland and North Carolina and within one-half game of third-place Virginia. Tim Duncan had 20 points and 15 rebounds for Wake Forest, while Randolph Childress had 19 points. Harold Deane led the Cavaliers with 20 points, but his chance to tie, a 3-pointer between two defenders with three seconds left, missed.

No. 17 Purdue 66, Wisconsin 56: The Boilermakers kept alive their chance to defend the conference title behind 13 points each from freshman center Brad Miller and senior guard Matt Waddell. Purdue is one-half game behind Michigan State in the standings and would tie because of winning their only meeting this season.

The visiting Badgers were led by sophomore center Rashard Griffith, who had a career-high 29 points and also grabbed 16 rebounds.

Enqvist Outshines Chang To Win U.S. Indoor Final

Readers

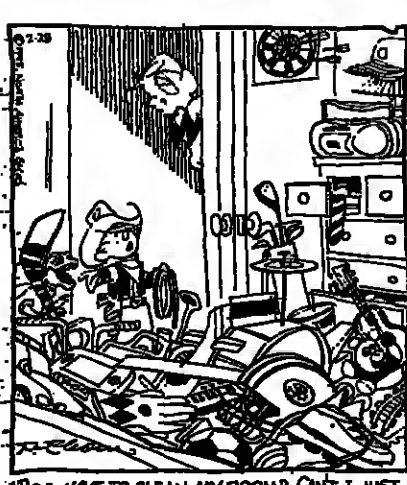
PHILADELPHIA — Thomas Enqvist of Sweden upset the third seed and defending champion Michael Chang, 6-6 6-4 6-0, in the final of the U.S. Indoor tennis tournament on Sunday.

The 20-year-old Enqvist had never beaten a top 10 opponent until his three-set triumph over the second seed and No. 2 ranked Andre Agassi on Saturday in the semifinals. Enqvist, who came into the match ranked 43d, will move inside the top 25 rankings Monday for the first time in his career. Chang, who came in ranked sixth, failed to pick up his 20th career title but will move up to No. 4 in the new rankings.

Chang scarcely missed a shot in the first set, and Enqvist was rushing his returns. But then the Swede began to place his booming serve accurately and he hit 14 aces for the match, the fastest being 125 mph (201 kph). Chang had trouble with his serve after rolling through the first set.

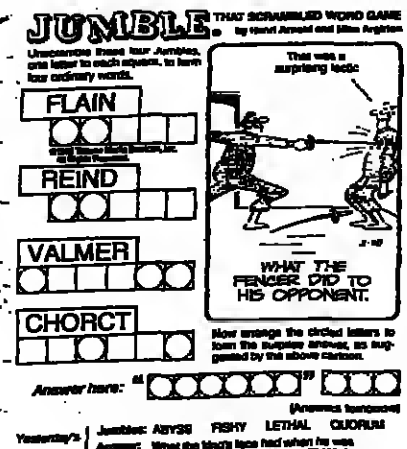
By the time they got to the third set, Enqvist needed only 15 minutes to take the final set and claim the victory.

DENNIS THE MENACE



Do I have to clean my room? Can't I just blaze a trail?

JUMBLE



Answers: 1. FLAIN 2. REIND 3. VALMER 4. CHORCT

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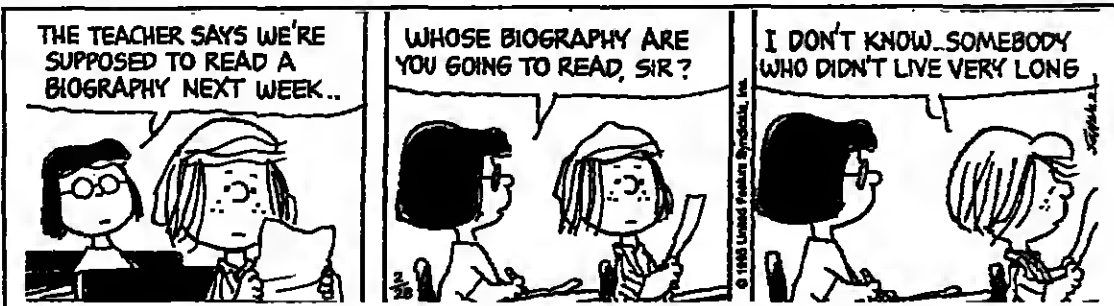
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PEANUTS



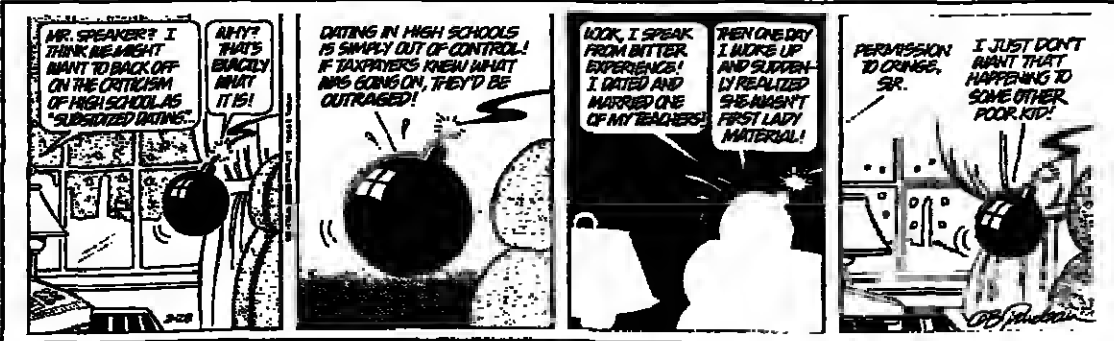
GARFIELD



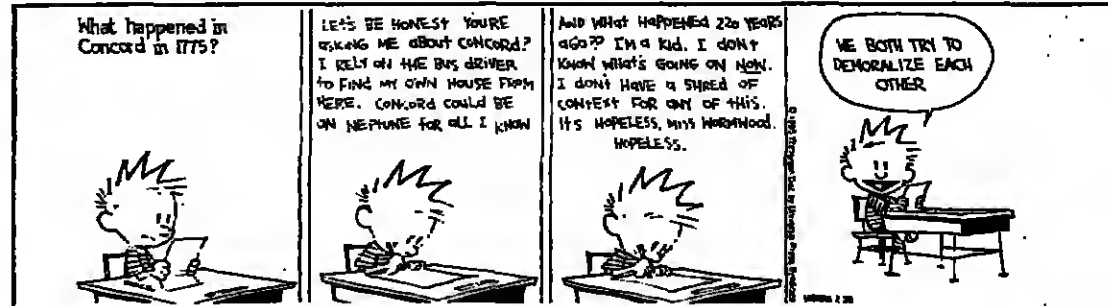
BETTER BAILEY



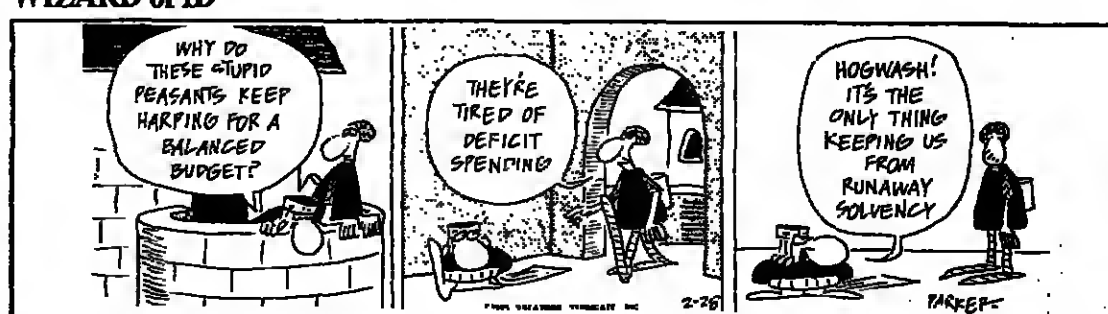
DOONESBURY



CALVIN AND HOBBS



WIZARD OF ID



THE FAR SIDE



"And here he is—but when I started, I bet he was at least this tall."

BLONDIE



50 من الاصل

